

INSIDE

SOCCER

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TIATTO THE LIGHT AT THE END OF A DARK WEEK



Australian soccer has just finished a quite extraordinary week. The current Brazil tour received more mainstream publicity than the promoters could have ever dreamed of - it was literally a main news story.

Sadly, the coverage said much about the Australian media's lack of understanding of the game and their never-ending wish to portray the sport in a controversial light, than anything else.

A good example was the weekend Australian. The Murdoch-owned paper (need I say any more?) ran with a huge and dramatic photo of Ronaldo exiting Sydney airport flanked by a burly security guard on the cover of its Sport section.

It then went on to assert that Ronaldo's return to Europe threatened future international matches. Further it opined at the top of each of the next two pages the laughable banner 'SOCCER IN CRISIS'.

A star player is forced to return to his club and the whole of the game of soccer - the world's biggest team sport - is in crisis? Some perspective please.

That headline could have easily been attributed to the recent Rugby World Cup with its meagre attendances, violent incidents and lack of public interest in the UK. But it wasn't.

Other mainstream media headlines screamed 'FREE TICKET FARCE', which of course is more of an attention-grabber than 'IMG DOES THE RIGHT THING'.

This shows an acute lack of understanding of the remaining squads on show and the reality the promoters had to grapple with.

As the Brazilians demonstrated at Stadium Australia, Real Betis' Denilson is one of a number of high quality players (Ronaldinho and Alex to name just two others) who are on show.

But does that make for a good headline?

The real issues are not important to some media groups - trite sound bites and emotive and

simple headlines rule. And some insist on using non soccer-specific journalists who know only the basics of the game.

The fact of the matter is that the two star players for this tour - Kewell and Ronaldo - in the end could not play. One genuinely wanted to play, the other we assume was genuine (I leave you to work out who).

It was disappointing and we all would have loved to see them both, but there are plenty of international class players in both squads and the global phenomenon of soccer rolls on (albeit mired in ever-increasing avarice.)

IMG - mindful of the fact that both Kewell and Ronaldo were the main drawcards (they were prime points of focus for the advertising campaign) - decided to throw open the doors to the public.

On a beautiful day at Stadium Australia almost 50,000 grateful fans turned out, with the Brazilian Samba fans contributing to a carnival atmosphere.

Just on the game, it showed how much work Frank Farina has to do. Given the strikeforce trioka of Viduka, Aloisi and Kewell was missing, plus Stan Lazaridis was out, perhaps it was understandable that we lacked a certain bite and fluency, while the conditions suited the Brazilians down to the ground (most of our players have come from the colder Europe.)

The only positive for the Socceroos was a barnstorming performance by the pocket dynamo Danny Tiatto. Following on from his all-action display against Manchester United here in July, the former Melbourne Knight, now with Manchester City, constantly looked our most dangerous option.

Tomorrow night's game is at the MCG. The Socceroos could not play as badly as they did on Sunday, and as the Brazilians showed, they aren't here for a holiday. Should be interesting.

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LG OFFICIALLY SIGNS



At a function prior to Sunday's Brazil game, Soccer Australia and LG formalised their partnership agreement with the ceremonial signing of the sponsorship documents. Pictured centre is an LG representative with Soccer Australia Chairman Basil Scarsella and MC Channel 7's Kylie Gillies. Inset is an autographed Socceroo shirt presented to LG from Soccer Australia.

GOOD LUCK JOEYS

Tomorrow (Wed) the Joeys, led by skipper Mark Byrnes and featuring star striker Shane Cansdell-Sherriff (right) will play their crucial final group game against danger side Mali. Go the Joeys. All the World U/17s news from New Zealand in this issue.



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S-NEWS

INSIDE SOCCER'S
AUSTRALIAN NEWS
AND GOSS

WE KNOW HOW YOU FEEL HARRY

Good to be back. Sorry S-news was unable to play last week but we were injured (writer's cramp) and the gaffer preferred us to rest despite previously saying we would be okay to write. Yes we know the press is on our back, and Inside Soccer has applied to the Press Council for us to be banned from our English column next week, but it's a long season and it's a long way to go to the office but we do want to play for S-news, even though our English column pays us massive amounts of money. Really.

ASIAN VAS?

According to sources in the west, the reason crowd favourite Vas Kalogeracos was given a wide berth by Glory was his lax attitude. This pushed coach Bernd Stange to the limit so the German will find a player from the local league to replace him. Kalogeracos - who cannot be contacted - seems likely to pursue a path well worn by other ex-Glory players, such as Doug Ithier and Ernie Tapai, and play in Malaysia and Singapore.

DON'T MENTION THE F-WORD

Just as the H-word (Harry) was not the most favourite of Soccer Australia last week when it comes to Ulf Kirsten, don't mention the F-word. Flying. Ulf Kirsten. Is similar to Dennis Bergkamp in more ways than one. He too hates flying. According to a journalist from German magazine 'Bunte', Kirsten, hates flying and believes travel between games in Australia is, like Germany, largely done on coaches. Has someone told him where Perth is in relation to the rest of Australia? He also will be given a free transfer by his club, which is likely to mean Glory will provide him with accommodation etc plus a salary. Kirsten wants his kids to learn English. And the tip in Germany is that the Kaiser, Franz Beckenbauer will be the next FIFA President.

MARCONI'S CREDIT CARD

Marconi continues to think of ways to improve its services, one way is with the Club Marconi credit card. In conjunction with Amex, the club now has its own card. Good thinking Stallions. Perhaps Jerry Seinfeld can advertise it? No doubt the bandwagon-jumpers will follow suit, with the Inside Soccer credit

card, Perth Glory card, Spirit card, etc.

BATTLE CHANGES

The Battle of Melbourne: South Melbourne v Carlton, scheduled for 2 January 2000 at Bob Jane Stadium has been moved to Wednesday 1 March 2000 Bob Jane Stadium 7:30pm

KIWIS STARTING TO WARM UP

"We've been on all the TV stations and now we have a show on Thursday nights and Saturday mornings every week. The news even turned up at the airport so it's all looking good. But it only happens when your winning so we have to keep it up," said Kingz' Lev Osman. The Kingz have just signed kiwi international Aaran Lines who has been playing in Europe for six seasons. Lines fell out with his Osnabruck coach and is nearing the end of his contract anyway. Not sure what the Kingz paid Osnabruck but Lines arrived in Christchurch last Thursday. And reported in the Sunday News on the weekend, Under-17 world championship organiser Bill MacGowan is expected to be named Football Kingz chief executive in the next fortnight

JUST AN IDEA

Lee Sterrey came up with a good idea. Playing the best NSL game of the round as the pre-match to the Brazil game. In Sydney Marconi v Spirit would have been great publicity, and a top fixture, before the international. He's got a point.

CARLTON WINS AGAIN

Carlton's media pack is the most professional version going around the NSL at the moment. Congrats to the club. It's a pity more Melbourne fans have not picked up on this club. Their next home game is against Power.

THE GIRLS STILL LOVE OUR SEXY 'ROOS

Despite all the brouhaha, the Socceroos still have their sex symbol tags. Word has it a number of young girls have been speculatively ringing up Star City trying to speak with them. Of course the apartment numbers are guarded by the Hotel and you have to go through team management to get them, and that's about as far as the female fans can go, but it hasn't stopped them trying.

RONALDO FLIES OUT BUT DIEGOS FLY IN

Just as Ronaldo was flying out INSIDE SOCCER was busy organising its own coup. We have just signed Melbourne Radio Soccer journalists THE FOUR DIEGOS. They will appear exclusively in INSIDE SOCCER. The team will focus on our Aussies abroad as well as the Australian scene. The first of many high-profile Aussie players will be Watford's Socceroo Richard Johnson (above). That's next week. Welcome THE FOUR DIEGOS (Sat morning Stereo 974 in Melbourne) to INSIDE SOCCER. Olé!



THE RISE AND RISE OF TONY VIDMAR



Tony Vidmar, Socceroo and Rangers defender. His Scottish club has no qualms about releasing its star players, like their Aussies Vidmar and Moore.

By Aidan Ormond

To a degree it's understandable that the media maelstrom has focused on just two names in the lead-up to this crazy Brazil tour of Australia: Ronaldo and Kewell. Yet it should also be noted - and not forgotten - how highly clubs in Europe hold the rest of our Socceroos.

Viduka (Inter Milan bound?), Okon, Skoko, Johnson, Zelic, Moore, Tony Vidmar and more. We have a truly international class squad, yet that fact has been somewhat overshadowed by the events leading up to Sunday's first tour

game.

Tony Vidmar - whose club career has been on the up and up ever since he left the NSL to pursue his European dream - is the consummate professional at his current club, the powerful Glasgow Rangers.

From Adelaide City to Ekeren in Belgium, Holland's NAC Breda - a club well-versed in Aussie talents thanks to the respected Socceroo frontman Graham Arnold - and finally his current club Glasgow Rangers, Vidmar's star has been rising steadily since the 1992 Olympics, a tournament that saw, arguably, Australia's greatest ever soccer team.

Rangers' then manager Walter Smith, now at Everton, signed him on a free transfer from Holland (thanks to the Bosman ruling) in 1997 on a four-year contract, after reportedly staving off bids from Ajax, Utrecht and Borussia Moenchengladbach.

Holding an Italian passport has also helped rather than hindered Vidmar's Euro transfers.

He does his job well, he is respected for it and, as the 28-year-old says, he keeps setting himself goals. Right now those goals are "to continue playing at the

highest standards in Europe - I'm not fussed in which country because I believe I can fit in anywhere - and to play in the World Cup 2002."

This next World Cup campaign may well, like some of his teammates, be his last, so his desperation is even more acute.

Fortunately he is with a club that seems to encourage national team duty. "They did not have a problem with it at all. They let us know straight away of the call-up and they were fine with it," Vidmar said last week from the Socceroos' Sydney base at Star City Casino.

The younger Vidmar (older brother Aurelio was in the initial 27-man squad) was first noticed in that Olyroo side of 1992 - an entertaining and swashbuckling combination that took on the world and almost made it to the final.

This current Socceroo squad has its fair share of that Olyroo team, including Bosnich, Okon, Zelic, Mori and Vidmar. "Yeah, we were talking about that how so many of that team are still here. It's something that the players deserve credit for - to have continued on in their careers so well. And now with players like Zlatko Arambasic and Milan Blagojevic returning to the NSL, they are putting back into the local game."

When asked whether it was the best side that we have produced, Vidmar is non-committal. "I think it was a very good team," he said slowly and thoughtfully.

"In comparison to the World Cup



Tony Vidmar: "Australia produces so many quality players and the standard ... is getting higher and higher."

side of 1993 it's difficult to say because we had different players and different competition.

"The 93' squad was a very good squad because many players were at their peak. The same can be said for the last campaign - Australia produces so many quality players and the standard with the national team is just getting higher and higher - it's harder to get in (to the squad)."

He also sees this two-game tour as the official start of the campaign for 2002. "Well I think at the moment and it's probably the start of many years together. After the first game on Sunday I think we are going to get that sense of who we are as a group."

Continued next page

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GREG BLAKE
C7 SOCCER



In the end Josip Biskic exited the coaching job at Melbourne Knights with the same grace and style which carried him through a club record 282 NSL games.

Despite the millstone of having to guide what is certainly the youngest and weakest Knights' NSL squad in club history Biskic walked away from the job with a respectable 6-3-11 record.

And despite his head having been forced on to the chopping block some weeks ago Biskic maintained his dignity to the end, which eventually came when he vacated the hot seat last Wednesday evening.

"As a coach, if you haven't got the results there is nothing else that can happen," said the former NSL Player of the Year.

"I believe I had the support of the players but with some board members, maybe not.

"I asked if they felt they could do something better by looking elsewhere then I would leave.

"For the good of the club I hope they can do something better."

Even Biskic concedes that dramatic changes are needed at Knights Stadium if the club is to launch a genuine fightback.

"It is a very crucial time for the club and I really hope they can turn things around," he said. "If they can, I will be as happy as anyone."

Assistant coach Mark Talajich, who declared that he was not a contender for the position on a full-time basis, looked after the team for the home clash against Newcastle last Sunday.

As we went to press my tip for the new man in the hot seat is a former Knights grand final teammate of Biskic, the big 'Moose', Vlado Vanis. Good luck Moose, you'll need it.

On the Knights, just makes you wonder why they don't opt for a change of gameday, given that their weekend form has lurched between mediocre and diabolical this season.

Because according to team manager, David Filipovic, the Knights are burning up the track and in fine form otherwise.

"We are doing everything right at training five nights a week," Filipovic declared last week.

I would imagine that is probably because at training the Knights don't actually come up against opponents of equal or greater ability. It's only when they actually have to play another team that they struggle.

In their worst nightmares, who'd have ever thought that a tour by mighty Brazil could possibly end up as (yet another!) public relations nightmare for Australian soccer?

Unfortunately for everyone involved in the game the whole very public disaster has been covered in the usual 'shock, horror' fashion by the mainstream media, which for me says more about the mainstream media than it does about Australian soccer.

I find it despicable and thoroughly indefensible that, for example, something as historic as South Melbourne's involvement in the up-coming World Club Championship can

be relegated to a couple of paragraphs buried as filler deep inside the back pages of one major daily and yet the whole Kewell/Ronaldo/Brazil saga has managed back-page lead for a week or more.

The anti-soccer bias in this country is venomous and pronounced but unfortunately the very media organisations of whom I speak still maintain significant influence and thus help shape public opin-

ion. Such is the integrity of editor, Aidan Ormond, and management at 'Inside Soccer' that it was determined that this publication would steer clear of trying to gloss over the

Brazil tour disaster, nor would it further sully the game's reputation by tipping a bucket on anyone.

"We'll just stick to reporting the facts," was the edict of managing editor, John Vrtaric.

However, just a couple of personal observations about the traumatic week just gone. - Australian soccer fans die as hard as any in the world and will always support international games, but the general public, the people required to fill the enormous venues like the MCG and Stadium Australia, lost interest in the 'friendly' game concept after the pathetic Manchester United tour earlier this year.

Even Joe Average can spot the difference between a match with something at stake and a game which amounts to little more than a glorified training run.

Tour promoter IMG deserves every plaudit soccer fans in this country can afford them for biting the bullet and opening the gates for nothing.

That is integrity.

Harry Kewell is stuck between the same rock and hard place many young Aussies have been caught in recent times, with club team Leeds eventually winning the tug of war and Soccer Australia talking tough on similar problems in the future.

If history is any guide Kewell, a remarkable talent, will still have a big say in the future destiny of the Socceroos - he may even captain his country one day.

Didn't one Mark Bosnich pull the pin on Australia back in 1993, for a World Cup tie in Canada no less, and at the time the powers that be shook their fists and stamped their feet and declared that Bosnich would never play for Australia again.

Six years later and he's pulling on the Socceroo skipper's armband.

Sensibly new Aussie boss Frank Farina has been non-committal either way, leaving the door open for Harry or



The now ex-Knights coach Joe Biskic waved goodbye with his customary dignity.

any of our overseas-based champs for if and when we need them.

South Melbourne players will share in a pool of around \$400,000 from the club's expected \$3.8 million bonus for playing at the inaugural World Club Championship in Brazil next January.

Much of the bonus money will be allocated towards further upgrades of South Melbourne's Bob Jane Stadium home, with a refurbished social club/poker machine venue high on the priority list.

As far as the players are concerned, should South Melbourne take a squad of 17 to Brazil each of them would earn about \$24,000 each as a share of the bonus money.

And although that is only about one week's pocket money for Mark Bosnich, by domestic standards it is still not a bad return for the lucky South Melbourne boys who get the nod for the Brazil trip

And a well done to one Ange Postecoglou, the coach many thought would never make it through a tough initiation at South Melbourne.

Two championships later and Angie coached his 100th NSL last weekend, at Adelaide Force on Friday night.

Continued from page three

"My big goal is World Cup 2002, it's something I really, really want," he said with a determined edge in his voice. "It's what I want more than anything ... of course the scars are still there from the Iran game."

And Vidmar, while disappointed that Harry Kewell was unable to make it, sees it as a virtue.

"You want to have your full team here and as regularly as possible. For our World Cup campaign it's necessary, so it's sad for Frank as well as us.

"Having said that it gives other players the chance to prove themselves.

"Of course it's disappointing Ronaldo could not have played - there's not much more you can say. When you play international

football you always want to play against the best."

Playing against the best is what the Champions League is all about. Sadly for Vidmar and Rangers, Bayern Munich's recent 1-0 group game win against the Scots put paid to their campaign for this season - yet they earned many plaudits with their stylish performance, even if Vidmar is still seething about the result.

"Yes we were very angry. We totally destroyed them. When we hit the post twice in the first half I had that feeling it was not going to be our night.

"Dick (Advocaat) has brought the players in who can do it for us in Europe and Scotland. Rangers have to have good quality players, so if there are good players he will buy them from the Continent.

"But there are some good young Scottish players who are coming up that the coach is looking at," he added.

"To have played that well and not go through was an injustice, but that is all part and parcel of the game."

And the Socceroo's time in Europe has given him a perspective on Scottish Football which he sees as being more cavalier in approach.

"Each country has its own style and

tradition. In Holland it's technical and tactical with much emphasis on the way the team is set up.

"In Scotland it's more attacking, more physical and more gung-ho, if you will. Two different styles ... it was a culture shock, particularly with the weather, which restricts us to one training session a day."

As for post 2002 World Cup campaign and his South Australian roots come out strongly.

"The family's in Adelaide and I'd like to end my career in Adelaide, just like my brother has. Once I get sick and tired of Europe that is something I would like to do. At the moment I am loving it though.

"And I hope to keep my Aussie accent while I am over there although being with Craig Moore that might be difficult," he joked.

And like his Champions League heartache, the events of November 29 1997 at the MCG was also an injustice the Socceroos and Vidmar are determined to exorcise - the Brazil tour is the first part of that difficult process.

But as the result on Sunday suggests, nothing is ever easy in life.



Socceroo Tony Vidmar seen here playing for Rangers in a pre-season game in Norway.

ZLATKO ARAMBASIC

A Classic Striker

On the eve of Australia's clashes with Brazil, Sydney Olympic striker Zlatko Arambasic reflects on his football career over the last decade. It only seems like yesterday that Arambasic, under the watchful eyes of Frank Arok, made his first and only appearance for the Socceroos against Moscow Torpedo. That was almost ten years ago.

At the age of sixteen Arambasic made his NSL debut with Canterbury and was considered one of the brightest young strikers to appear on the local scene.

It was inevitable his talent would lead

and Kennart Andersson who scored a hat-trick in Serie A for Bologna only a few weeks ago.

I really was being talked about at the time as a future star amongst these great players so I developed a strong loyalty factor towards the club which has remained with me all these years.

R.S. Do you think your lack of playing time at the Barcelona Olympics affected your future non-selection for the Socceroos?

Z.A. I've always wanted to play for the national team but you have to recognise that players like Farina, Arnold, Mitchell, Aurelio Vidmar and Viduka were always the big names linked with selection so it was always going to be hard for players like me and David Seal to receive a call up.

At Barcelona I don't believe Eddie Thomson used me as much as I deserved, especially after I scored against Mexico and was dropped for the match against Denmark.

The disappointing thing was, I only found out about my non selection through another player.

R.S. Do you subscribe to the theory that our lack of

technical ability and inadequate preparation, compared to our opponents, were the main reasons for that infamous 6-1 thrashing by Poland in the semi final at Barcelona?

Z.A. Perhaps, you could say this may have been part of the explanation in the second half but in the first half we more than matched it with the Poles by holding them to 1-1.

Unfortunately, the midfield lost the ball a few times early in the second half and the Poles were able to capitalise by scoring two quick goals to bring the score to 3-1.

Despite changes to the team at that stage we continued to be at sixes and sevens and players like Carl Veart, who was playing up front in one of his rare appearances, were unfortunately unprepared for the role they were supposed to play.

R.S. What did you think of Eddie Thomson as a coach?

Z.A. Thomson was a great motivator and was able to relax players to get the best out of them. He knew the strengths and weaknesses of his players and was able to plan his tactics in full knowledge of what he could achieve during the ninety minutes.

However, from a personal perspective I wish I had more opportunities during the Olympics to show what I could do and maybe I might have played for Australia again.

R.S. Your progress has been hampered somewhat by injuries, but are other factors to blame?

Z.A. Injuries certainly haven't helped as I missed virtually the whole season in 1993/94 due to a hernia problem just after I transferred from Mechelen to Metz.

However, in the following season I moved to Oostend, another club in Belgium, where I overcame adversity to score 27 goals in 26 matches.

Also, last season after scoring those eleven goals it was a big disappointment when I injured my knee in January.

Some players go through their careers without suffering serious injury but there are other issues to contend with. For example, when I replaced Graham Arnold at NAC Breda in the 1997/98 season I scored three goals in nine games from only five starts, including a goal and an assist against P.S.V. when Jap Staam was playing.

Yet the club was still thinking of bringing Arnold back and also importing a player from Spain to play up front.

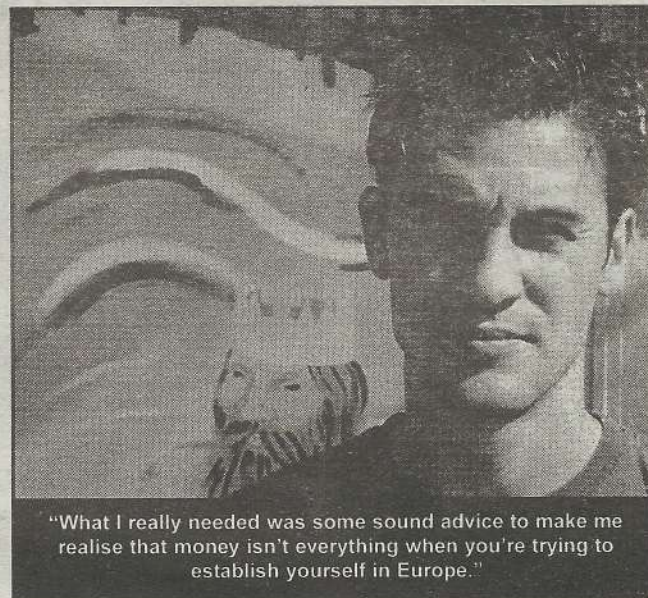
Even after scoring all those goals last season, I became a forgotten man when the club won the championship.

Luck does play some part and perhaps my decision to return to Australia for a season after the Olympics, due to a dispute about terms with Mechelen, affected my momentum in terms of gaining real recognition in Belgium.

What I really needed was some sound advice to make me realise that money isn't everything when you're trying to establish yourself in European football.

R.S. Do you have any regrets about your career experience in Europe?

Z.A. As I've just mentioned, my decision to come back to Sydney for the 1992/3



"What I really needed was some sound advice to make me realise that money isn't everything when you're trying to establish yourself in Europe."

season wasn't the best one.

However, the other thing I would do if I had my time again would be to go overseas as an established player like Arnold, Slater and Farina, perhaps not as late but just so I would be able to see things more clearly in planning a career.

R.S. Are you happy playing in the NSL?

Z.A. It has been a little hard to adjust because I hadn't played for many months due to my injury and it will take a little while to perfect my first touch.

Having said that, there are no easy teams in the League and our recent loss against the Kingz was a good example where our rhythm was upset by their compression tactics.

R.S. What happened against the Kingz?

Z.A. In many ways we didn't play to the coach's instructions. There was no support of players in possession, players were too deep and there weren't enough balls played behind the Auckland defence, things we'd been working on during the week.

R.S. How do you rate Sydney Olympic's chances for the season?

Z.A. If we can duplicate our performance of the first half against Northern Spirit, every week of the season, we can achieve anything.

Most importantly, we have to learn how to win at home consistently to be a serious championship contender.



Zlatko Arambasic seen here playing for Australia against Mexico at the Barcelona Olympics in 1992. He scored in this game.

him to Europe and professional football.

Now back in Australia after being approached by Branko Culina, Arambasic is committed to assisting Sydney Olympic towards a serious title challenge and making a worthwhile contribution to the NSL.

In this exclusive interview with **ROGER SLEEMAN**, Zlatko Arambasic reveals all about his European career, an Olympic Games experience under Eddie Thomson and his thoughts about Australian football ...

ROGER SLEEMAN: After a long professional career in Europe, why did you come back to Australia?

ZLATKO ARAMBASIC: Despite a very successful return to Mechelen last season when I scored eleven goals in thirteen starts, I suffered an injury which kept me out for four months, so I was going to find it hard to regain my first team spot. After receiving an offer for a one-year contract from Sydney Olympic, I thought it was time to come home and play in the NSL.

R.S. You seem to have a love-hate relationship with K.C. Mechelen because you had three separate stints with the club. Can you explain this ironic situation?

Z.A. I suppose I do have a soft spot for the club because it was my first club in Europe and I remember well my early successes. After all, I played in the Belgian Cup Final in 1992 against Antwerp and scored a goal.

The club had quality players at the time including John Bosman, Marc Wilmots

Ram



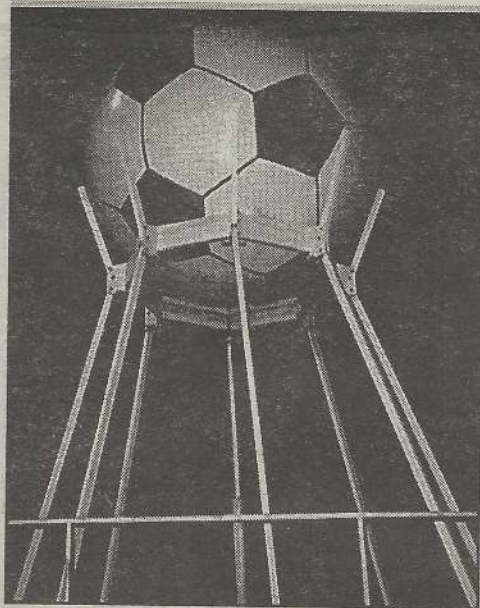
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AND THE WINNER IS ... SYDNEY?

Speculation is mounting about the possible inclusion of yet another Sydney-based NSL franchise when the league is 're-launched' for season 2000/2001.

There is a genuine possibility that outfits representing either Cronulla-Sutherland or St George will be primed to roll off the showroom floor and join a streamlined national competition next season and there are other 'possibles' waiting in the wings in currently sports-mad NSW.

Further NSL expansion in Sydney will not likely be greeted with enthusiasm around the rest of the nation, particularly with long-established clubs in places like Melbourne and Adelaide either falling or set to crash, and SA addressing the many mini crisis situations with what is generally perceived as almost casual indecision or dismissed with in glib platitudes.

And most of all it is a tough concept to swallow because in case you hadn't noticed, Sydney clubs stopped winning ten years ago.

But, no doubt about it, the Sydney market is still piping-hot. In terms of the domestic competition the game's support base, corporate image, media coverage and financial backing in NSW is as strong, if not stronger, than it has ever been.

And hosting an Olympiad in around twelve months time has done the general sporting climate no end of good, albeit for what may be a limited lifespan.

"I've got to say that as far as soccer is concerned, Sydney is where it's at," trumpeted much-travelled Marconi boss

league trying to exploit the city's sudden sporting opulence, is there any palpable justification for NSW boasting as many clubs as the rest of the nation combined?

Perhaps not, given that the national championship trophy has been paraded almost everywhere but Sydney with monotonous regularity for the past decade.

Since 1990 eight of the nine titles decided have gone outside NSW and the city itself has only even earned the right to host the biggest game of the season but once, when Marconi won its last championship in 1992/93.

It's a savage indictment on the likes of the so-called 'Rolls Royce' Stallions, perennial sleeping giants (yawn!) Sydney Olympic and big-budget Spirit that Sydney's best performances of recent times have been produced by cash-strapped and possibly scrap heap-bound Sydney United.

According to SBS Television's premier NSL analyst, Kyle Patterson, that is a fairly sad reflection on the bigger Sydney outfits.

"First and foremost that does underscore the great footballing production line of the local Croatian community - and that includes Melbourne as well," he said.

"But that also tells a story about the other Sydney clubs - it really does reek of complacency."

Former Socceroo skipper and now Channel 7 soccer front man, Paul Wade, agrees that complacency and arrogance may have played a part in the decline of Sydney soccer at domestic level, as does another former Melbourne in Krncevic.

"Maybe some of them (the players) are a little too spoiled - maybe some players get a little too much," says Krncevic, who switched from Melbourne's Carlton club to the Bossley Park-based Stallions in the last close-season.

"As far as players are concerned there is no doubt that they are well looked after up here (in Sydney)," said Wade.

The former Socceroo captain who played against the awesome might of now defunct Sydney City in the early 1980s and then saw the pendulum swing when he was on deck for South Melbourne's win in 1990/91, heralding in a decade of Melbourne, Adelaide and even Brisbane successes.

"Yeah, maybe there is a bit of that arrogance up here that they still believe they are the best."

"I think the clubs are more professional up here, but perhaps that in itself can have its drawbacks."

"For example, it's very difficult for players making the transition from part-time to full-time and maybe it will take time for clubs like Parramatta to really have an effect."

There is no question that on a purely reward for performance basis Sydney should be losing clubs, not gaining new ones.

And there is a school of thought that Sydney's rapid expansion could be diluting the city's ingenious playing talent pool and corporate support to the point that it is becoming almost too difficult to produce a

Is Sydney really the epicentre of Australian Soccer? On the surface it may appear so, with the talk of another franchise from its South a further reminder of the 'Harbour City's' apparent numerical and financial hegemony over the rest of the country's soccer fraternity. Greg Blake however argues that, on the eve of NSL rationalisation, Sydney and NSW still has much to do before it can truly stake that dominant claim ...

winning football team.

Berti Mariani knows how to produce winners. He coached Sydney's last truly great footballing outfit, a Marconi team

Patterson concurs with Mariani and extends the theory historically to reflect the gradual decline of Sydney's power base from the glory years between 1977 and 1983, when six of the first seven NSL titles went to the harbour city.

"I think it's true to say that in the early days of the NSL they (Sydney clubs) benefited from their big social clubs with the pokie machines," said Patterson, SBS television's resident NSL expert commentator.

"When the NSL started you saw people like Jimmy Rooney and many others moving to Sydney to play, because that was where the money was."

"Even back earlier in the 70s you had star Victorians like Peter Ollerton and Billy Vojtek making the pilgrimage, but obviously that has stopped over the years."

"And in the old days the likes of John Kosmina and David Mitchell had to leave Adelaide to play in the national team, likewise Gary Marocchi had to leave Perth for the same reasons."

"That was just the way it was."

Patterson also believes the intrinsic nature of many former and current Sydney-based NSL power clubs contrasts dramatically to the prevailing mentalities at places like South Melbourne or Adelaide Force.

"Certainly historically the strength of clubs like Apia, Marconi and Sydney City were in their massive social clubs," he explained.

"A lot of the Melbourne clubs and the people involved there, for example, have always been there for soccer only and sometimes I think that takes them the extra yards needed to win."

"I mean, if Marconi soccer wound up tomorrow the club itself would still go on and thrive for the next fifty years."

"I think it's a given fact that Melbourne and South Australian clubs were purely purpose-built to win championships and at stake is the pride of that community and the people involved."

Like Patterson, current Marconi skipper and new Socceroo squad member, Brad Maloney, is adamant that NSW already has too many clubs in 1998/99.

Continued on page 19



Marconi's Socceroo Brad Maloney: He believes there are too many teams in NSW.

which went back-to-back in 1988 and 1989, played in a third consecutive (this time losing) grand final in 1989/90 and was regularly exporting star quality overseas long before it became the norm.

Mariani says any number of issues could at least partly explain once clearly superior Sydney's fall from grace in the 1990's, but the drain on the talent pool has been critical.

"In Sydney you've now got a greater number of clubs and a thinner spread of players," he explained. "What is there, something like eighty of our best players now playing overseas as well, so the out-flow of players has increased."

"We had a much larger player pool (in the 1980s) and the economics of the time also dictated that the best players gravitated towards the Sydney clubs."

"The circumstances of the economic climate are critical, because generally these days there isn't enough money to lure the best players from other states."

"Sydney players generally stay in Sydney and Melbourne players in Melbourne."

"So if you lose or dilute the talent from any particular city it has to weaken the clubs from that area."

It's a savage indictment on the likes of the so-called 'Rolls Royce' Stallions, perennial sleeping giants (yawn!) Sydney Olympic and big-budget Spirit that Sydney's best performances of recent times have been produced by cash-strapped and possibly scrap heap-bound Sydney United.

Eddie Krncevic recently.

But how much is too much?

The league imbalance is already curious enough. Exactly half of the league's current sixteen clubs are based in NSW, with the half-dozen in Sydney itself double the number of teams which represented the harbour city less than a decade ago.

Northern Spirit hit a golden vein in year one of existence, but ambitious Parramatta Power is already finding the going much tougher than many expected on and off the paddock. Is there any more room for league expansion in Sydney?

While there might be a case for the

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NSL ROUND 7: BRISBANE IS NO FLUKE



Joel Griffiths on Friday night against Glory

Team of the week is Parramatta Power for a barnstorming and entertaining 3-1 home win on Friday night. The crowds are going to flock if Mitch's Men continue like that.

QUOTES OF THE WEEK:

"It's like a beach party from Gidget!"

Bernd Stange on opposition teams playing at Perth Oval. He feels it's too accommodating for opposing sides.

This younger generation then goes on to one of the vast number of dance clubs around Sydney and 'rages on' (their emphasis) into the early hours of Sunday morning."

Olympic's funky GM Frank Martin proving he's in tune with 'the younger generation'. The club was not allowed to play one of the Ian Rush games on a Saturday because the ABC could only televise on Sunday. So why not televise a different game and let them play Saturday??? Duh.

"I'm not a modern person."

Greg Blake on computers.

It is now the time for a new and younger generation of coaches to take up the reins.

Les Scheinflug on his move to a 'technical director' role at Soccer Australia. He is now almost into his fourth decade with Soccer Australia. Wonder if some of the senior players will have to call him 'boss' before they can sit down for breakfast??

"With eight minutes remaining on the clock, Kingz central defender Ivan Vicelich deflected a near post header into the net and then helped out his defensive line to try to hold out the marauding ITALIANS.

Daily Post in NZ on the Kingz v Olympic game. This is the paper that spelt the Olympic striker as Pablo Cardozo!

"He's in Sydney to show respect to his country and also to the Australian fans but he must also respect the laws of FIFA."

Inter on Ronaldo's visit to Australia.

"Don't mention the H-word"

A Soccer Australia official on Harry Kewell.

I'm bloody stuffed.

Kasey Wehrman after his first game for Glory.

*NSL top scorers:

PAUL FOSTER (Strikers) 5

ZELJKO BABIC (Stallions) 5 (pictured right)

Cumulative attendances after round six.

99/00: 313, 028

98/99: 310, 829

What a weekend for Sean Babic (right). He scores the winner against Spirit, then, while sitting in the dressing room after the game, is told by coach Krncevic he is wanted by the Socceroos for the Brazil game. And so he makes an appearance barely 18 hours later at Stadium Australia in front of 50,000 fans!



Round seven in review

It was an historic first time win for Olympic in Gippsland on Saturday.

As coach Branko Culina said later, it was very handy to pick up three points but he desperately wants his side to fire in front of his own fans.

He feels the inconsistency at Belmore is a problem that needs fixing.

Going into this weekend's games he is hoping that both Pablo Cardozo and Brett Emerton will be fit after being in camp with the Socceroos, plus

he will have the services of Ian Rush, who is due to fly in later this week.

Culina is hoping Rush arrives as soon as possible, given that the game is on Sunday and the ex-Liverpool star is arriving all the way from the UK.

Ante Juric will be out after receiving a late red in Gippsland.

Great to see Parra Power firing last Friday night.

The fans really are getting behind their side and the support is slowly growing.

The way Parra played will ensure more fans will turn up sooner rather than later.

And in Brisbane, the Strikers have proved beyond any doubt that this marvellous start to the year is no fluke. Over 6,000 turned out, which is very encouraging, for the top-of-the table clash with Carlton.

The 1-1 draw a fair indication that these two sides are going to continue to be hard to beat. And with Paul Foster banging them in (what must Spirit be feeling about that??) and a huge work ethic, the era of '96 is looking more and more achievable.

Brisbane: beautiful one day, perfect the next.

	(Overall)								(Home)					(Away)				
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	GD	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A
Brisbane Strikers	7	5	2	0	12	6	17	6	2	2	0	8	5	3	0	0	4	1
Carlton	7	4	3	0	13	3	15	10	2	1	0	5	2	2	2	0	8	1
Sydney Olympic	7	4	2	1	11	5	14	6	0	2	1	4	5	4	0	0	7	0
Marconi Stallions	7	4	2	1	12	11	14	1	2	0	1	3	4	2	2	0	9	7
Wollongong Wolves	7	3	3	1	15	13	12	2	2	0	1	5	5	1	3	0	10	8
South Melbourne	7	3	1	3	10	6	10	4	3	0	0	8	0	0	1	3	2	6
Perth Glory	7	2	3	2	10	9	9	1	0	2	1	4	5	2	1	1	6	4
Parramatta Power	7	2	2	3	11	12	8	-1	2	2	1	9	7	0	0	2	2	5
Football Kingz	7	2	2	3	10	14	8	-4	1	1	2	6	10	1	1	1	4	4
Canberra Cosmos	6	2	1	3	7	7	7	0	1	1	2	4	3	1	0	1	3	4
Sydney United	6	2	1	3	5	7	7	-2	2	0	2	4	5	0	1	1	1	2
Newcastle Breakers	7	1	3	3	9	12	6	-3	0	2	1	5	6	1	1	2	4	6
Adelaide Force	7	1	3	3	4	8	6	-4	1	2	0	3	2	0	1	3	1	6
Gippsland Falcons	7	1	3	3	4	8	6	-4	1	1	2	2	3	0	2	1	2	5
Melbourne Knights	7	2	0	5	6	11	6	-5	2	0	2	4	4	0	0	3	2	7
Northern Spirit	7	1	1	5	4	11	4	-7	0	0	2	0	3	1	1	3	4	8

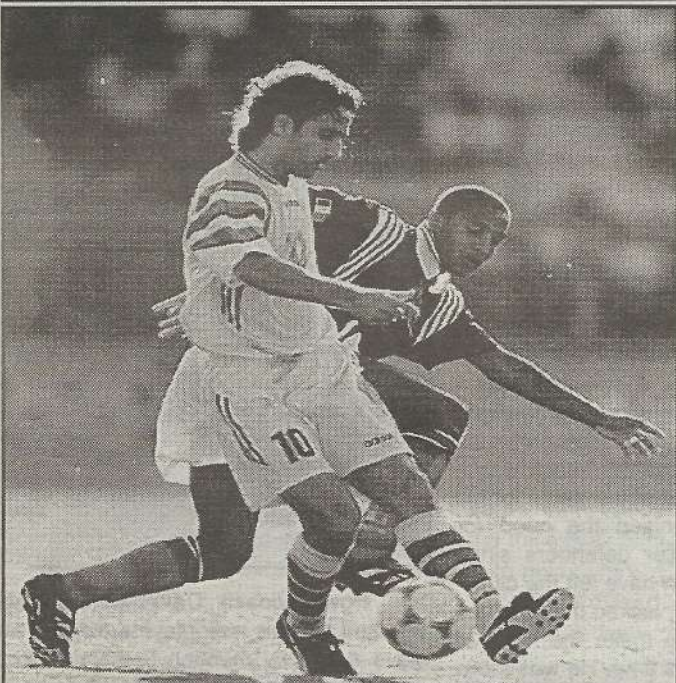
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Viddy's timely reminder to national selectors



ADELAIDE FORCE 1 Day 66 SOUTH MELBOURNE 1

Anastasiadis 21
Friday night at Hindmarsh Stadium, Adelaide. Crowd 5,240



Aurelio Vidmar ... man of the match performance.

By Margaret Bowden and Donald Campbell OAM

A balmy Friday night in Adelaide. The crowd ambled in late to Hindmarsh Stadium for this surrogate derby. Perhaps they knew the best soccer seen in Adelaide so far this season would be kept for the second half. This was a game where the score belied the on-field action. Who said the Force play boring soccer?

Here was a chance to see import Claudio Pelosi in action for the first time in Adelaide. In the first half he seemed a bit slow getting to crosses, but in the second half, with Aurelio Vidmar pushed forward for support, he settled into a dangerous striking partnership with Nathan Day who scored for the Force with a diving header in the 66th minute.

Bradley Hassell also struck up an understanding with Pelosi to antagonise the South Melbourne defence, sending a warning that Adelaide will be a Force to be reckoned with come finals time.

Vidmar stole the show. Force's third captain in three weeks put paid to his critics with a diamond performance. Where was Frank Farina? With no Harry Kewell, Frank could use a Viddie up front.

Even the much maligned Carl Veart and Carlo Talladira played out of their skins in the new look, attacking, aggressive Force. Two weeks ago the Force

looked totally lost.

On Friday they started to click. They were fitter and faster, and played with grit and desperation to be first to the ball - something sadly lacking previously. It didn't seem to matter that Damian Mori was missing from the front line.

Alex Tobin, however, was sorely missed at the back. Despite a rock solid performance by Angelo Costanzo at sweeper, South Melbourne's goal resulted from inexperienced defending and a goalkeeping error, something Zoran Matic indicated will

never happen again.

South Melbourne for their part did not look the class team Adelaide fans have come to expect.

Minus Paul Trimboli, David Clarkson and Michael Curcija, they allowed the Force too much room in the midfield, and backed off when the Force took the game up to them. One who never backed off was South's ex-West Adelaide favourite Jimmy Tsekini. Although playing at right wing back, there was no mistaking the number 17 style as he grafted for possession and made his trademark penetrating runs down the right flank.

His old fan club came out to cheer him on, unlike the Goran Lozanovski 'boo boys'. The Force fans gave their ex-hero plenty of stick every time he touched the ball.

Stand-outs for South were Fausto De Amicis, big Nick Orlic and goalscorer John Anastasiadis. De Amicis was everywhere, from the deepest defence to running up front. Orlic stood as a tower of strength at the back while Anastasiadis constantly took on the Force defence in partnership with Steve Panopoulos and De Amicis. Anthony Magnacca, George Goutzioulis and Di Amicis entertained the crowd with some brilliant chest to chest and head to head passing, but South seemed to have lost their ability to finish off their moves.

Their efforts did not deserve a draw, with the Force outnumbering them at least 2-1 in every department from shots on goal to corners and free kicks.

South had the first scoring opportunity through De Amicis in the first minute, but he wasted his half chance. Then Nick Sabljak sent a magnificent cross in from the right which looked perfectly placed for Day to header, but the big striker watched it go past. Day almost scored in the 16th minute when Pelosi passed the ball out to him wide on the left.

Panopoulos put in a late tackle on Pelosi, but referee Eddie Lennie played the advantage, allowing Day to round the South defence and shoot from close range - into the side netting.

Three minutes later and Matic must have been wishing he was buried under a pile of Best Bricks as Pelosi failed to bury

a sitter, sending the ball past the far post after latching onto a pin-point pass from Vidmar.

Two minutes later, against the run of play, South Melbourne went 1-0 up. Coveny sped down the right and lobbed a cross over to the far post where Anastasiadis ran in unmarked to head easily past the out-of-position Vilson Knezevic.

Suddenly the Force came alive. In the next ten minutes, Sabljak made Milan Udvaracz earn his keep with a diving save from a low cracker of a shot, Pelosi headed over the bar and Vidmar slammed a free kick over the bar. Michael Cartwright and Costanzo screamed up the pitch from the back in turn and shot.

The second half and Vidmar ran riot. Cartwright went off injured, Veart moved back, sub Talladira played a defensive midfield role, and Vidmar moved forward.

Four minutes into the half Day and Pelosi combined to force a save from Udvaracz. Dong Ki Kim then sent Pelosi through. Down went the big striker. Penalty? Dive?

In the Chubb Play of the Day, Costanzo dispossessed the South Melbourne attack, streaked up the pitch and laid the ball off to Vidmar, who dodged four defenders, lost the ball as he set himself for a shot, regained possession and passed it out to Day to shoot from the left. Day smashed it straight at Udvaracz.

The ball came back out, Sabljak ran onto it and wham - over the bar again! Ten minutes in and Sabljak crossed from the right for Pelosi, but Liparoti headed clear.

Veart was booked for kicking Anastasiadis in the face as he went for a low header. Pelosi was next in the book for dissent, then Anastasiadis for a pay-back late tackle on Sabljak.

Hassell ran hot in the centre of the pitch, almost outpacing Udvaracz to a long ball into the box. Finally the Force found the back of the net. Hassell crossed for Day, who dived to head past Udvaracz - 1-1.

Force's first goal in 336 minutes of soccer.

The drummers went into overdrive and Hindmarsh resounded to whistles, chants and cheering.

Tsekini missed his chance to become a hero for South as he shot wide six minutes later, then Vidmar out-elbowed Lozanovski, roared down the left and placed the ball perfectly for Pelosi, whose diving header skimmed past the far post. Two minutes from the end, the niggles boiled over. Veart crudely brought down Coveny with a potential leg-breaker and the pitch exploded. Only two players stayed out of the resultant melee. Surely Veart was off? In the confusion Day and Tsekini, who

MATCH STATS...



ADELAIDE FORCE
Knezevic, Cartwright (Talladira 45), Veart, Sabljak, Vidmar, Day, Kemp, Costanzo, Hassell, Pelosi, Kim.



SOUTH MELBOURNE
Udvaracz, Iosifidis, De Amicis, Orlic, Panopoulos, Coveny, Anastasiadis, Magnacca (Lozanovski 68), Goutzioulis, Tsekini, Liparoti.

YellowCards:

Adelaide Force: Veart, Pelosi, Hassell, Day
South Melbourne: Anastasiadis, Goutzioulis, Tsekini

Best Players:

3 AURELIO VIDMAR (AF)
2 Angelo Costanzo (AF)
1 Fausto De Amicis (SM)

Referee: Eddie Lennie

were trying to pull players away, were booked. After consultation with assistant Steve Craggs, referee Lennie earned the Pedro's Pizza most controversial moment award for this amazing decision.

On this performance, South Melbourne has a long way to go to be competitive in the World Club Championships.

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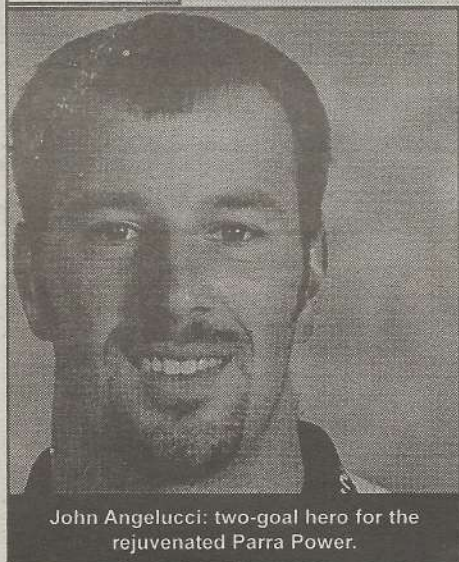
PARRAMATTA POWER 3

Griffiths 3, Angelucci 41, 73

PERTH GLORY 1

Edwards 48

Friday night at Parramatta Stadium, Sydney. Crowd: 6,076



John Angelucci: two-goal hero for the rejuvenated Parra Power.

By Paul Goodwin

On a day when attention was largely focussed on national team affairs, Parramatta Power and Perth Glory reminded us all of the quality of the club game in this country with a fine display of attacking and skilful football in front of an encouraging crowd at Parramatta Stadium.

The opposition was already known for their attacking flair and the crowd was not disappointed with their approach this time either, but it was probably the Power's need for a win at headquarters that sparked the aggressive and positive showing by both teams on this occasion.

A very early goal by Joel Griffiths provided the impetus Parramatta needed and immediately put Perth under additional pressure which led to some very exciting soccer at both ends.

When Parramatta scored again, min-



Joel Griffiths celebrates another goal for the Power

utes before the break, it might have been enough to kill off many other sides, but never one such as Glory.

They responded soon after the break with a quick goal and the game hung in the balance until the last 20 minutes when Power added a third.

Parramatta were without Mile Sterjovski, Richard Plesa and Jacob Burns and drafted in Jon Angelucci, Walter Ardone and Joe Vrkic to replace them and illustrate the strong depth in the Power squad.

They got away to the best of possible starts when Griffiths exchanged passes with Ahmid Elrich, who moved well down the right to provide the final pass into the

box for the blond striker to confidently stroke the ball past the exposed Tony Franken in only the third minute.

Perth immediately came back with a swift attack of their own down the right, by Con Boutsianis, whose shot skimmed just across the face of the goal.

Power keeper Andrew Crews was kept very busy by a more than lively Perth attack and was forced to tip a Boutsianis header over the bar in the 9th minute as well.

Six minutes later Jamie Harnwell provided Boutsianis with a beautiful diagonal pass and the ace marksman latched onto it perfectly, smacking a superb volley at goal and bringing out another top notch save from Crews.

Parramatta kept plugging away themselves, meanwhile, looking to extend the lead and when Ardone fed Angelucci with a precision through pass in the 17th Gareth Naven had to come to the rescue with a telling tackle well inside the box.

At the other end, Kasey Wehrman made a dazzling run on the right, in the 23rd, cutting in past three defenders before delivering a tight cross to the near post where Crews plucked the ball from the laces of a Glory player waiting to pounce, and was then relieved to see the defence hack the ball to safety when he could not hang onto it cleanly.

An Ardone cross from the right, soon after, eluded John Gibson in the centre and reached Angelucci at the far post where the former Blacktown City striker could only find the side netting.

There then followed a passage of play in which Ivan Ergic went close on a number of occasions, a flying header in the 28th just going over and then a shot from point blank range that Crews saved instinctively.

A peach of a ball from Alistair Edwards for Robert Trajkovski out wide on the right saw a well delivered cross volleyed well by Ergic only for Crews to stifle the danger a few minutes further into the half.

Parramatta continued to press hard, however, and was rewarded with a second goal in the 41st.

Peter Bennett's long throw to Steve Berry on the right saw Gibson first nod the ball on and then Ahmid Elrich steer the ball in the path of Angelucci who lashed the ball into the net at the far post.

Other shots from Ardone and Angelucci were both saved by Franken who had plenty of work to do on this very pleasant evening.

Glory came out strongly in the second half and pulled a goal back inside three minutes.

Ergic won the ball in a tussle close to goal and passed to Wehrman whose fierce drive was only parried by Crews and the lurking Edwards rifled the ball into an empty net from six yards.

Both sides had further chances, with Troy Halpin getting more involved in the second half and setting up chances, one of which Scott Miller lifted over the bar from close range in the 67th.

Gibson and Ardone had gone close for Parramatta before that and it was not long before the 'killer' third goal arrived to loud acclaim from a vociferous home crowd, who at last seem to have devel-

oped into a partisan and highly vocal group after a sluggish, almost indifferent start in their following of the newly formed club.

In the 74th the ball was fed out wide to Elrich and when his firm cross from the right byline was fired over, Angelucci timed his run well to steer the ball in at the near post, sending Franken the wrong way.

Griffiths also went close twice before the end and Berry drove another over the bar, but the message was already delivered by that stage that this was one game the Power were not going to let slip.

Glory coach Bernd Stange was in a positive mood after the game reflecting on the sombre tone of the dressing room when the players left the field and stressing that this was his team's best performance of the season - despite the loss - indeed it gave him great encouragement for the remainder of the season.

Their ability to counter attack was a good sign to come out of the game for his team, but he recognised the need for bringing in some taller defenders since most from last season have left the club.

His side, he felt, lacked the patience they really needed to make the most of their opportunities this time. He was more than happy with 18 year old Ergic and while this most promising of players appeared to squander many chances, Stange insisted that he would be persevering with him in the weeks ahead as he is learning very fast.

His policy of playing attacking soccer will not change, he went on to say that keeper errors and some shortcomings at the back contributed to the loss.

His task now is to lift the players after their loss and show his faith in them, for he was more than pleased with their efforts on this occasion.

MATCH STATS



PARRAMATTA POWER:
A Crews, D Barrett (C), J Vrkic, J Angelucci (D Townsend 80), S Berry, W Ardone (M Santalab 77) J Gibson (S Eagleton 61), M Blagojevic, A Elrich, P Bennett, J Griffiths



PERTH GLORY: T Franken, R Trajkovski (J Afkos 78), G Naven (C), S Miller, J Harnwell, E Junior (D Valle 90), T Halpin, K Wehrman, A Edwards (J Carbone 78), I Ergic, C Boutsianis,

Yellows:

Parramatta: Peter Bennett 80
Perth Glory: Troy Halpin 86

Best Players:

3 KASEY WEHRMAN (G)
2 Andrew Crews (P)
1 Jon Angelucci (P)

Referee: Gerry Connolly

Power coach David Mitchell was pleased that his new players did well and gave a special mention to Ahmid Elrich, who showed more confidence than on his debut a week earlier.

Andrew Crews was also singled out for praise for his many fine first half saves especially.

As Steve Berry gains further fitness the team will also benefit and Mitchell felt that the side was at last beginning to play like his team did last season in the colours of Sydney United.

As the next home game is against that very club it will be interesting to see how well they play when matched against one another for the first time.

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BRISBANE STRIKERS 1

Foster 28

CARLTON 1

Thompson 55

Saturday night at Suncorp Stadium, Brisbane. Crowd: 6,483



Strikers' scoring sensation Paul Foster.

By Cameron Atfield

The high-flying Brisbane Strikers kept their place on top of the NSL ladder despite being held to a 1-1 draw by Carlton on Saturday night.

The Strikers undertook a concerted marketing campaign to promote the match at Suncorp Metway Stadium, which even included television advertising.

In front of their biggest home crowd of the season so far (6,483), the Strikers came out firing in what has become a regular occurrence at the "Cauldron" of late.

But, at the risk of sounding a little cliched, this was certainly a match of two halves.

It took only five minutes for Brisbane's first shot on goal. The home supporters thought they had something to cheer when Jeromy Harris latched on to a Nick Meredith cross to head the ball just wide of the mark.

Then, just two minutes later, Brad Ditton continued the attack with a 30 metre shot which was easily taken by Carlton keeper Dean Anastasiadis.

Anastasiadis was by far the busier of the two keepers, and he was tested again in the tenth minute.

He managed to get his fingertips on to a Peter Grierson shot, and it was enough to deflect the ball on to the cross-bar.

Carlton's first real chance did not come until the 20th minute, but Mike Conroy could only direct a weak header to Clint Bolton, which did not trouble the in-form Brisbane keeper.

The Blues by this stage were slowly coming into the game, with Archie Thompson and former Brisbane boy Andrew Packer both having half-chances.

Carlton paid for their missed chances in the 28th minute when goal machine Paul Foster netted his sixth goal in as many matches.

The NSL's top scorer back-headed a cross to Grierson, who in turn laid it back

to Foster who beat Anastasiadis with a clinical left-footer.

The large Brisbane crowd was elated with the goal and the noise was something unheard at the old Lang Park for quite some time.

Strikers captain Stuart McLaren was unlucky to be booked by referee Matthew Breeze in the 37th minute after a soft foul.

Unfortunately for him, he will now be suspended for this week's match against Sydney United.

Carlton had a great chance to equalise when Andrew Marth made a meal of a great chance in front of goal, but his header went to the left.

Less than a minute later, Brisbane should have doubled their lead.

Jeromy Harris was on target with an angled shot, but it was well saved by Anastasiadis, who was able to push the ball past the right post.

The half time score of 1-0 reflected the Strikers' dominance of the game - but with the break came a Carlton revival.

Thompson had a great chance four minutes in to the half when he had a good run for goal thwarted by Bolton.

Carlton's pressure finally paid off in the 55th minute when Thompson lobbed Bolton, who was well off his line, to drop the ball into the goal with pinpoint accuracy.

The goal was greeted by an eerie silence around the ground, and Strikers supporters had little to cheer as Carlton began to dominate all aspects of play.

They had their hearts in their throats in the 76th minute when Brazilian import Alex Moreira had two great raids on Brisbane's goal.

Bolton made a fantastic save to keep Moreira's shot out, and just one minute later he smothered a Moreira run on goal.

Carlton continued to look dangerous well into the final minutes of the game.

Goal hero Thompson had a point-blank shot well saved by Bolton in the 88th minute.

The last movement of the game was an incredible six minutes into injury time. Carlton was awarded a free kick just outside the area, but it again found Bolton in great form.

He saved the low shot and it was cleared by the Strikers defence. The ball did not have a chance to hit the ground before Matthew Breeze blew the final whistle.

The game ended at 1-1, and the Strikers were lucky not to lose the match. Blues coach Stuart Munro said he was happy to leave Brisbane with the single point.

"You've got to be pleased with a

point the way Brisbane's playing at the moment, although we hoped to come up here and win the game," he said.

"We didn't have any decent chances in the first half, but in the second we were much better. We pressurised them in their own half, which is what I wanted to do in the first half, and it worked well."

For the second home match in a row, Strikers keeper Clint Bolton came in for some praise at the post-match press conference.

It was Bolton's 153rd game for the Strikers, which broke the record held by Troy Cranney (now with Northern Spirit).

for the most games played for the club.

"You've got to take chances as you get them, and we certainly had chances in the second half, but the goalkeeper for Brisbane was outstanding," said Munro.

Strikers coach John Kosmina was more critical of his keeper after the

soft goal conceded to Archie Thompson.

"He was looking at the ball, and not what was going on away from the ball," he said.

"But aside from that he had a fine game."

Kosmina was upset with captain Stuart McLaren's yellow card, which means he will miss the next game because of a suspension.

"Stuey McLaren's yellow was a soft one," he said.

"Just look at some of the other tackles that occurred. Breeze just didn't want to give out the cards."

Young defender Matt Bell will slot into the side next week away to Sydney United.

"Belly's been playing well, so it will

MATCH STATS



Brisbane Strikers:
Bolton, Gwynne, Davidson, Ditton (Bell 90+'), Pilic, Foster, Dwyer, McLaren (c), Grierson, Harris (Baldwin 77'), Meredith. Sub not used: Stefanutto



Carlton: Anastasiadis, McPherson, Deans, Douglas, Marth, Atkinson, Lapsansky, Thompson, Conroy (Moreira 64'), Markovski (Terminello 90+'), Packer. Sub not used: Anthopoulos

Yellow Cards:

Brisbane: Stuart McLaren 37'; Carlton: none

Best Players:

1 - ARCHIE THOMPSON (C)
2 - Clint Bolton (S)
3 - Sean Douglas (C)

Referee: Matthew Breeze

be a straight swap with McLaren next week," Kosmina said.

"He did a good job against Parramatta and Perth so I have no hesitation putting him into the team."

Munro said he rated this Brisbane outfit very highly.

"You don't get to the top of the league without being a top team," he said.

"I think Kossie has recruited very well, and he's had to go to the local leagues to do it. His players are all working very very hard for each other and they play to a system that suits them very well."

Munro also had some good news for the Carlton faithful regarding Simon Colosimo, who was injured after a rash Andy Cole tackle in the Socceroos' match against the European champions earlier in the year.

"Simon Colosimo is supposed to be starting jogging in the next few weeks," he said.

"I think he'll play again this season - he could surprise a few people."

In the earlier match, the Queensland Academy of Sport defeated Marconi 4-0.

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Nick Carle hits form as Olympic wins again



GIPPSLAND FALCONS 0 SYDNEY OLYMPIC 1

Juric 14

Saturday night at Mobil Park, Gippsland. Crowd 1,950

Match Stats



GIPPSLAND FALCONS:

Jevdjovic, Fak, Gotis, Durakovic, Marcina (MacNicol 76), Vargas, Bell, (Savage 90),

Puca, Hutchinson, Nilo, Kakos. (Sub not used Hastie)



SYDNEY OLYMPIC:

Bouhoutsos, Tsekenis, Baillie, Juric, Phillips, Mendez, Wilson, Carle (Zoricich 80), Zorbas, Arambasic (Tome 88),

Cardozo. (Sub not used Miot)

Yellows:

Olympic: Mendez 21, Zorbas 67, Cardozo 90.

Falcons: Gotis 93

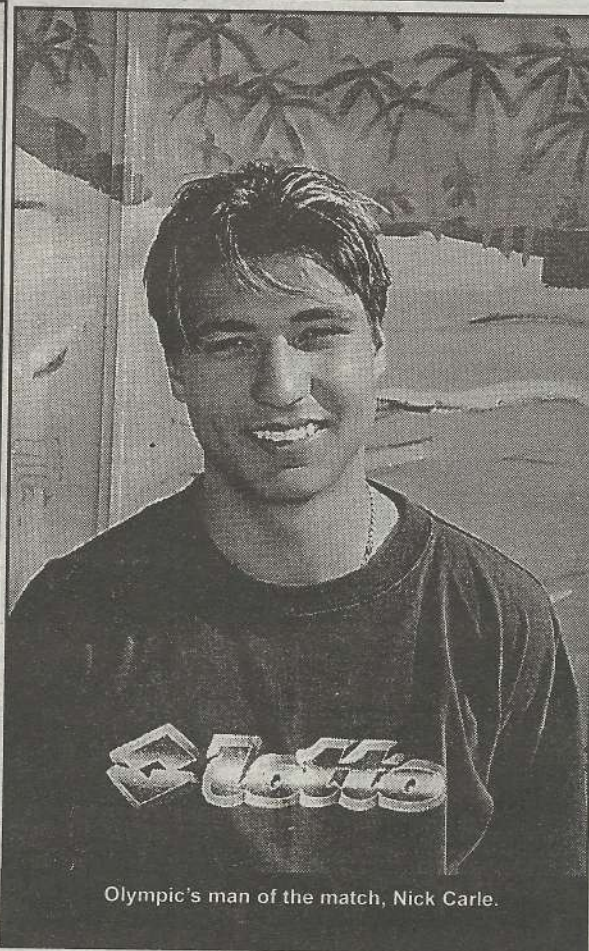
Red Card:

Olympic: Juric 92

Best Players:

3 PUCA (G)
2 Bouhoutsos (SO)
1 Carle (SO)

Referee: David Dwight



Olympic's man of the match, Nick Carle.

The second half began with no changes to the respective lineups and the Falcons continuing the attacking tone set late in the first half.

It was evident that Olympic was happy to sit back and absorb pressure from the Falcons with the hope of catching them on the break. This allowed the Falcons to up the tempo of the game with the likes of Vargas and Puca becoming prominent for the Falcons and the Olympic side becoming more physical in an attempt to slow down the fleet footed Falcons.

The first real chance of the second half fell in the 65 minute to Peter Kakos after a great turn and through ball by Nilo on the half way line.

Kakos found himself behind the Olympic defenders only to be run down and brilliantly tackled in the box by Scott Baillie before he could manage a shot on goal.

The Falcons were clearly on top and throwing everything at Olympic.

In the 73 minute after a string of corners to the Falcons, a scramble in the penalty area almost lead to an own goal by Olympic, only to be headed off the line by Ante Juric.

The clearance fell to Manny Gotis on the edge of the penalty area, who proceeded to beat a defender and drive an unstoppable shot just centimetres wide of the

Olympic upright.

Jeff Hopkins played his hand in the 76 minute bringing on a third forward in Brian MacNicol for Marcina in an attempt to get a result from the game.

Branko Culina responded by substituting the impressive but exhausted Nick Carle from midfield and bringing on an extra defender in Chris Zoricich.

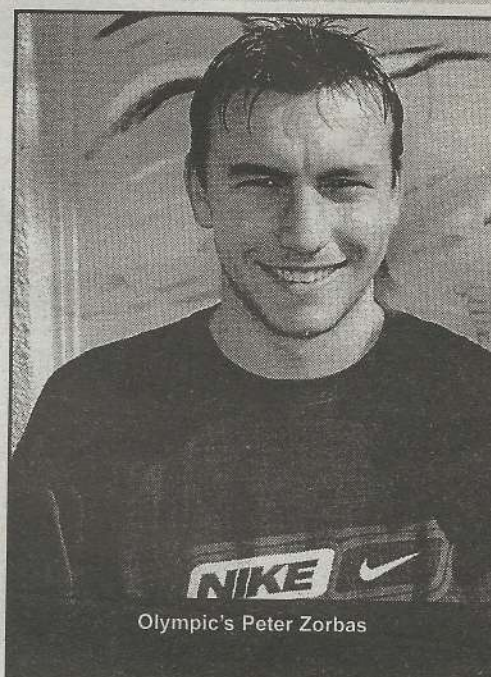
The Falcons threw everything at Olympic and in the 88 minute did everything but beat the woodwork.

From one of many great runs by Robbie Puca down the left flank for the Falcons, the diminutive Juan Nilo meet the teasing cross with a perfect header that took Bouhoutsos out of play, only to see the ball come off the upright and cleared away to safety.

More strikes by Kakos and Durakovic late in the game were to no avail as Olympic held on to their one goal lead in a match that threatened to turn spiteful when Ante Juric was red carded for a behind the play incident spotted by the assistant referee.

In summary, Olympic played the perfect away game with an early goal and then defending well to hang on for three valuable points.

The Falcons yet again showed they have the ability



Olympic's Peter Zorbas

ty to outplay their opposition, but their inability to find the back of the net yet again leaves Jeff Hopkins and his men empty-handed.

The most influential player on the night was Robbie Puca for the Falcons. His hard running down the left flank, particularly in the second half was a constant threat to the Olympic defence. George Bouhoutsos in the Olympic goal was solid under enormous pressure and his prominence in the air ensured the three points for Olympic.

Nick Carle in the Olympic midfield continues to show that he will be a star of the future.

By Lucio Viggiano

In an entertaining match, Sydney Olympic maintained their perfect away record for the current campaign and in the process recorded their first ever victory against the Gippsland Falcons at Mobil Park.

The Falcons welcomed the hard running John Hutchinson back into the starting line-up after missing the previous weeks match against Parramatta through injury and Olympic were without their inspirational Olyroo captain Brett Emerton (in Sydney with the national team).

In a scrappy start to the match, Olympic settled earliest and gained control of the midfield through the efforts of the skilful Gabriel "Chi-Chi" Mendez, Marcus Phillips and the impressive Nick Carle.

The Falcons seemed slow to settle into their usual pattern of play and paid dearly in the 14 minute when uncanny loose defending saw Ante Juric score one of the simplest goals of the season.

From an Olympic corner the Falcons defenders were caught ball watching as Ante Juric helped himself to a loose ball inside the penalty area and nonchalantly side-footed it into the corner of the net, as a flat-footed Bojo Jevdjovic in the Falcons goal watched it on its way.

1-0 Sydney Olympic.

The goal stung the Falcons into action, which saw some good moves instigated by Vargas and Marcina overlapping well down the right flank.

The experienced Olympic defensive combination of Juric, Tsekenis and Baillie looked to have the measure of the Falcons' forward combination of Nilo and Kakos, who for all their efforts were getting

little supply from the Falcons midfield.

This period of Olympic domination almost lead to a second goal in the 26 minute.

Falcons goalkeeper Bojo Jevdjovic yet again seemed slow to react to a harmless cross from the right, which saw the ever alert Pablo Cardozo nip in to loop a header over the advancing keeper only to see it cleared off the line by the Falcons defence.

The first real chance to the Falcons came in the 28 minute when a cracking shot from outside the box by Clayton Bell was only partially smothered by Bouhoutsos in the Olympic goal, he recovered just in time to save at the feet of the alert Juan Nilo.

The Falcons were getting back into the match with Vargas, Bell and Hutchinson regaining some ground in midfield bringing Marcina and Puca into play down the flanks.

This lead to another chance to the Falcons after good lead up work by Vargas lead to a strong run by Kakos down the right and a stinging shot from the edge of the box well saved down low by Bouhoutsos.

Olympic though, through the crafty Mendez were looking dangerous on the break and with great support by the hard running of Carle in midfield had the Falcons defenders constantly under pressure.

The first half ended with both sides exchanging fierce attacking moves with the Falcons looking dangerous when their creative captain Mehmed Durakovic ventured forward.

Durakovic's single handed efforts opened the Olympic defence on two occasions late in the half only to see the Olympic defence scramble the ball away to safety. Half time 1-0 Sydney Olympic.



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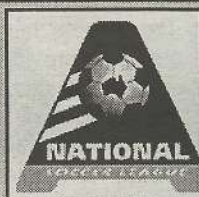
Youthful Spirit gallant in defeat

MARCONI STALLIONS 1

Z. Babic 3

NORTHERN SPIRIT 0

Saturday night at Marconi Stadium, Sydney. Crowd 9,123



Match Stats:



MARCONI STALLIONS:

Turnbull, Farah, Gibson, Smith, Invincible, Renaud, McDonald (Severino 90+), Care, Trajanovski, Marchesini (Zoric 61), Babic.



NORTHERN SPIRIT:

Perosh, Casserly, Bingley, Sobczyk, Cranney, Langdon (Cunico 82), A. Griffiths, Enes (Saad 51), Bilokapic, Seal, R. Griffiths (Rudan 88).

Yellows

Stallions: Gibson 25, Marchesini 59, Turnbull 65.

Spirit: A. Griffiths 18, Seal 78, Cranney 80.

Best Players:

3. **TRAJANOVSKI**

2. Invincible

1. Casserly

Referee: S. Micallef

By John Vrtaric

Northern Spirit slumped to their third loss in a row when it went down to cross town rivals Marconi 1-0 in a closely fought contest on a perfect spring evening.

Spirit had their chances to win but were unable to convert their opportunities with the main culprit being the man who was bought to solve their goal scoring woes, David Seal.

Whilst Spirit produced a better performance than their efforts of the previous few weeks they were still short of the standard expected of a side with ambitions of a top six spot.

The game did not reach any great heights with the winning goal scored of a fortuitous rebound from a Marconi free kick that found a totally unmarked Zeljko Babic who looped the ball over the stranded Spirit 'keeper John Perosh.

Spirit coach Graham Arnold was true to his promise to inject some youth into his team after the disappointing performances of the last two weeks.

The Griffiths boys, Adam and Ryan, were brought into the starting line up to join brother, Power's Joel, as NSL players.

Former State League player Alan Griffiths must be a proud father as there would be too many fathers that have produced three sons who have played football in their country's highest level competition.

The older Griffiths, Adam, twin of Joel, played well in the middle of the park while the 18 year old Ryan had a quiet game in a striking role alongside David Seal.

Marconi, on the other hand, had a settled side with the only change from the previous being the inclusion of Paolo

Marchesini for Stallions captain Brad Maloney who was a late call up to the national team as replacement for Harry Kewell.

Kris Trajanovski dropped back to midfield to cover for Maloney while Marchesini took his spot as striking partner to Zeljko Babic.

With a bench of Harry Karl, Vlado Zoric, along with youngster Daniel Severino, and injury and suspension keeping out Mark Babic, Dominic Longo, Pan-Keun Kim, Francis Awaritefe, as well as untried import Pierluigi Di Gia, coach Eddie Krncevic has great depth that should stand him in good stead as the season unfolds.

As Robbie Slater remarked in the press box Spirit had a better start this week than in their previous game against Wollongong. In that game they conceded a goal in the first minute whilst it took Marconi all of four minutes to open the scoring.

In a swift counter attack Marconi's Paolo Marchesini was tripped by Robbie Enes ten metres outside the penalty box and Brendan Renaud stepped up to take the free kick. His strong shot was deflected high up in the air by a Spirit leg and Zeljko Babic was quickest to react finding himself alone under the high ball which he lobbed over the Spirit 'keeper just under the bar for the only goal of the game.

Spirit put some decent moves together in the early part of the game and came close to scoring but usually the final telling pass was astray.

In the ninth minute a move between Matthew Bingley and Matthew Langdon



Ryan Griffiths. One of the many young Spirit players who did not let their side down.

provided the latter with time and space to cross to the far post but the it was out of reach of the well placed younger Griffiths.

Marconi had opportunities with some well struck shots from distance that, in the



Marconi's Sean Babic. Received a national call-up while on the park playing for his side. He scored the winner on Saturday night.

end, were well saved by Perosh. In the 21st minute another free kick from Renaud saw his left foot shot elude the wall but not the well positioned 'keeper.

Three minutes later a corner clearance found Chad Gibson who enjoys having a go at long range shooting. His right foot struck the ball well but Perosh again saved well.

In the 25th minute Spirit were very fortunate not to concede a second goal. Adam Griffiths lost the ball to Christian Care who provided a super cross to Trajanovski just inside the penalty box wide on the left. He dragged the ball back and hit a good shot which, as television replays showed, hit the arm of Sobczyk but the referee did not see it and waved played on.

Late in the half Seal had two golden opportunities to register his first goal for the season and provide the equaliser for Spirit. Langdon beat a defender and cut inside from the left and attempted a shot with his 'wrong' foot. The right foot shot was hit meekly but it had enough power to reach the penalty spot where Seal was first to react but his instinctive toe poke flew over the bar.

Just one minute later Enes attempted a shot on the right and ball rebounded off a Marconi defender and speared off towards the left where Seal was in a perfect position with plenty of time and space. He struck a firm left foot shot which was superbly saved by the young Marconi 'keeper Michael Turnbull.

Marconi had an early chance in the second half when Trajanovski again beat his opponent on the left and provided a cross towards Babic in the 48th minute -

the quicksilver striker reached the ball just in front of Perosh who had raced out of his goal. As Babic tried to round the 'keeper Perosh dived at his feet and brilliantly smothered the ball.

In the 57th minute a well worked move between Bingley and Enes saw the ball passed toward Seal who let it roll past his right foot to allow him a direct shot on goal which Turnbull again saved well.

Trajanovski conjured up another shot in the 64th minute when he created a gap for himself on the left but his shot was well saved by the in-form Perosh.

Two superb cross field passes by Casserly deep from his own half allowed Langdon the time to measure his crosses from the left. His first one, in the 73rd minute, was just too high for Seal but it bobbed about dangerously before being cleared.

Two minutes later an identical move saw Langdon's cross fly over everyone to the far post

where Adam Griffiths was lurking but his running half volley was wide of the near post.

In the 84th minute Trajanovski had a golden chance to seal the result. A corner from the right was hit deep to the far post where Trajanovski was able to control the ball on his chest, cut inside toward goal and fire in a tremendous shot which beat the 'keeper, but Adam Griffiths was able to head the ball off the line.

The last few minutes saw two clear chances for both sides. In the 87th minute Cunico was able to cross the ball to Seal who was well placed just wide of the Marconi right post. The striker took too long to control the ball and by the time he was ready to shoot a defender was able to close him down and block the shot.

The last chance fell to Marconi two minutes later. An interchange of passes between Trajanovski and Invincible saw the latter shot for goal from the right. His shot cum cross fell perfectly into the path of Babic who steered the ball into an empty net but was ruled offside.

Eddie Krncevic was happy with result and thought it was a good effort from his team and thought that Spirit had shown improvement.

"On tonight's performance Spirit are still in with a chance for the top six," Krncevic said.

Arnold, while despondent at another loss, was happy with the effort of the younger players.

"The team showed determination and commitment, the type that they should have shown for the last six weeks.

"I was happy with the youngsters as they will do what you ask of them which is was the more experienced players weren't doing for the last four weeks," Arnold commented.

Change of coach brings victory

MELBOURNE KNIGHTS 3

Kelic 55, 71, Cervinski 85

NEWCASTLE BREAKERS 0

Sunday afternoon at Knights Park, Melbourne. Crowd 2,832



Match Stats:



MELBOURNE KNIGHTS:

John, Rahjer, Kovacevic, Kelic (Silic 68"), Trupkovic (Urlovic 86"), Banini (Magdic 70"), Kiratzoglou, Vargas, Vassallo, Reda, Cervinski



NEWCASTLE BREAKERS:

Catlin, Pryce, Roberts (Juchniewicz 79"), McManus, Sprod, Dodd, Wilson, Buonavoglia, Wiecezorek, Trpcevski (Tanchievski 58"), Harper

CARDS

Yellows: nil.
Reds: nil.

Best Players:

- 3 - IVAN KELIC (Knights)
- 2 - Brandon Vassallo (Knights)
- 1 - Andy Harper (Newcastle)

Referee: Jeremy Blainey

By Mark Fisher

Ivan Kelic made a winning return to Somers Street last weekend, by scoring two goals and setting up Adrian Cervinski for a third. Having recovered from a hamstring injury that kept him away for three weeks, his presence was a welcome factor in a team coming off a three goal drubbing a week earlier.

This time it was the Knights doing all the scoring, in what was essentially a free-flowing encounter. Knights fans will no doubt be relieved that their team has now clambered up off the bottom of the NSL

ladder.

The Knights certainly didn't have it all their own way though, as Newcastle burst out of the blocks early in the first half, particularly through the likes of Brad Wiecezorek and the indefatigable Andy Harper. Yet the Knights managed to keep their opponents scoreless throughout, whilst asserting themselves most impressively during the second half.

Despite the win, caretaker coach Mark Talajic was adamant in denying he was after the job on a permanent basis. His admission came after a week of high drama at the club. Joe Biskic walked out as coach on Wednesday after being informed that he did not have the full support of the Knights Board. This meant that it was up to the Knights' assistant coach to stem the tide of poor results that have dogged them so far this season.

The game got off to a frenetic start, highlighting a will on the part of both teams to play fast, attacking football. Wiecezorek made a blistering fifty metre run on the left side of the field, then darted in towards goal.

He managed to round Ante Kovacevic in the Knights' back line, and then send a deft cross to Harper, who in turn followed up with a shot from close range. It was only a brilliant outstretched save from Martin John that denied Harper, as the ball flew off his left hand and away off the right post. Amazingly, the Breakers' best chance to score went unrewarded.

It wasn't long before the tall Knights marksman Ivan Kelic got into the rhythm of the game. His first major involvement came courtesy of a cross from Alex Kiratzoglou, who is now becoming a regular performer for the Knights down the right flank. Kelic's resultant header lacked power and direction, giving Bob Catlin the easiest of saves as he stood and accepted the ball with open arms.

By the fifteenth minute - mark though, Newcastle did most of the pressing, with John Buonavoglia, Mark Wilson and Harper again making life difficult for Ransford Banini and Rody Vargas, although Vargas to his credit did mark Harper closely for the most part. The Knights allowed the Newcastle midfield quite a bit of freedom in the centre until midway through the first half, with a preparedness to counter-attack when chances presented themselves.

The Knights absorbed two more promising movements by the Breakers before they were able to establish parity in possession. The first came when Wiecezorek made another big break, again past Kovacevic. This time he chose

to fire at goal himself, but his weak angled shot provided easy pickings for the Knights custodian John.

The second play was instigated by Vasko Trpcevski, whose lob found the head of Harper, but the recipient was facing the wrong way and his subsequent header drolled up for John to again tidy up in goals.

Now it was time for Brandon Vassallo and Adrian Cervinski to take the game to Newcastle. Cervinski took a shot from 25 metres out, which dipped sharply before Catlin could get across to make a fine save.

Vassallo grew in stature late in the half and got involved in a number of goal-threatening opportunities. He sent a cross to Kelic inside the box in the 31st minute, yet Kelic could do little more than send his header well wide.

Joe Rahjer then squandered a chance of his own. He ran deep into the Knights attacking half, slipped a pass to Kelic as he ran through the Breakers' back four and then collected a return pass. All the while he was clearly on-side, and all that was left to do was to slot the ball past the 'keeper. His shot was a wild one, however, and it sailed a mile well over the cross bar.

It was surprising that despite all of the commotion in the first half, the game was still scoreless, and it seemed highly unlikely that it would stay that way until the end of the match. After the break, the Knights looked a lot hungrier for possession of the ball. Their desire for an ever-

elusive result began to show, with Vassallo and Reda keen to make some hard yards in mid-field

Kelic looked the best target man for them up front, and suddenly it became a game of two halves. He came close to scoring in the 49th minute, when he ran onto a

Mijo Trupkovic through ball. Catlin pulled out a smothering save to deny Kelic an opening goal.

It only took another six minutes and the Knights had snagged the lead. Rahjer again slipped forward to send Kelic a cross from the left flank. Kelic then volleyed a looping shot over Catlin's head as the Breakers' goalkeeper came to meet the threat, and the ball floated into the back of the net. The Melbourne Knights now owned a 1-0 lead, and with newfound confidence could now exert more pressure on the visitors.

Kelic could apparently do no wrong. He looked as though he had regained full fitness, and it showed. There was no sign of any niggles as he turned and rifled a curling strike from about 25 metres out, but Catlin was equal to the task and covered it well.

There was nothing the Breakers' custodian could do about the next goal however. Slack marking on the part of the



Two goal hero Ivan Kelic.

back four allowed Kelic to meet a Mark Silic cross with a sliding shot at the right post. The unmarked Kelic saw his shot fly past the big man into the net, bringing the Knights fans to their feet in joyous celebration. The Knights were now 2-0 up after 71 minutes.

The Knights fans urged their team to grab another goal before full-time, and Kelic and Co. delivered. This time Kelic sent a cutback pass to Adrian Cervinski from near the goal line, again made possible due to slack defending. The pass came too quickly for Catlin to block, and Cervinski coolly slotted home near the far post. The Knights had the match sewn up with a comfortable three-goal cushion in their favour.

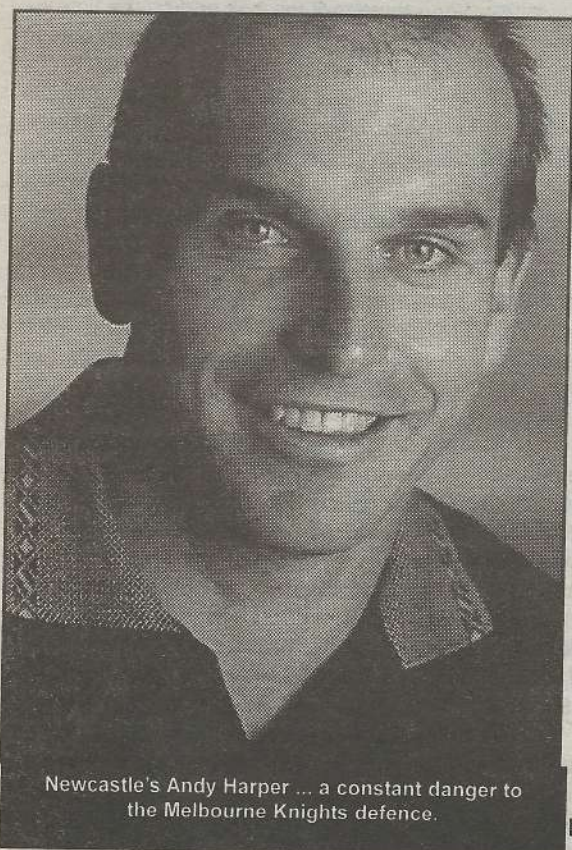
Kelic earned a well-deserved early shower four minutes from time. The clock ran down with Newcastle contemplating what might have been, had they put away at least one of their first half chances

After the match, Lee Sterrey questioned the resolve of his defenders. "Our defensive efforts leave a lot to be desired", said Sterrey, who was essentially disappointed not only by how the Knights scored, but also with the fact his team couldn't convert their own chances into goals. "We should have been 2-0 up in the first fifteen minutes", he lamented.

The Knights caretaker coach, Mark Talajic, indicated that the result depended on the level commitment from his players. He was not pleased with the Knights' first half efforts, labelling them as "pretty shocking". "They were walking around - they just didn't want to win. I had a few words with them", he said.

Talajic noted a marked improvement in his players after the break. "They turned it around in the second half. I said just go out there and show that we can play the full ninety minutes". His words obviously had the desired effect.

Unfortunately, the win came a week too late for departed coach Joe Biskic. Talajic is also expected to move aside when a permanent appointee is announced, possibly in two weeks' time. Preston coach Vlado Vanis has the inside running, but one should not discount the chance that supercoach Ian Dobson will make a return to the Knights fold.



Newcastle's Andy Harper ... a constant danger to the Melbourne Knights defence.



Melbourne Knights' goalkeeper Martin John.

Young fires as Kingz go down in goalfeast

FOOTBALL KINGZ 2

Rufer pen 60, pen 81

WOLLONGONG WOLVES 4

Masi 35, Chipperfield 40, Young 68 & pen 80

Sunday at Jade Stadium, Christchurch, NZ. Crowd 4,168



King Dino Mennillo. One of the better performers in Christchurch.



Match Stats:

KINGZ:

Batty; Perry, Bunce, Vichelich, Stergiopoulos (Middleby, 46); Jackson (Jones, 88), Ngata, Osman, Mennillo; de Jong, Silva (Rufer, 46)



WOLVES:

Pogliacomi; Souris, Cervinski, Stanton; Horsley, Reid, Huxley, Harlock; Masi (Petrovski, 88), (Surjan, 90), Chipperfield, Young

Yellows:

Kingz: C. Jackson (70), D. Mennillo (81)

Wolves: G. Souris (52), L. Pogliacomi (61)

Reds:

Kingz: C. Bunce (89)

Referee: Derek Rugg

with the result. Both the Kingz goals came from penalty kicks by Wynton Rufer, and Wollongong were motivated and disciplined and a little quicker all round the park.

The first quarter was a cat and mouse affair. Dino Mennillo looked the most likely of a subdued Kingz attack.

Wollongong were always quick to get men behind the ball and counter-attacked lethally. Scott Chipperfield and Stuart Young in particular caused the Kingz endless trouble.

The crowd of 4,166 was below the break-even figure and possibly puts a question mark against other Kingz' excursions away from Auckland. But it gave the Kingz great noisy, over-the-top support – and it must have been the first time a one-eyed Canterbury crowd has cheered itself hoarse for an Auckland team at Jade Stadium.

The match started promisingly enough for Kingz. Che Bunce, Levent Osman, Dino Mennillo, and Chris Jackson all had shots as the Kingz took up where they'd left off in Auckland against Wolves, but keeper Leslie Pogliacomi was very safe.

And after 34 minutes the Australians went ahead with a goal neatly crafted by Young and Horsley and finished off with a powerful header by Esala Masi.

Young started the move with a fabulous flick to Horsley, whose cross found Esala Masi to head passed goalkeeper Jason Batty.

Less than six min later Chipperfield made it 2-0 – Jonathan Perry was dispossessed and Chipperfield beat a slowly-reacting defence to score when the ball was played to him quickly.

It should have been 3-0 before halftime – Masi missed a sitter from a cross by Chipperfield, and Jason Batty made a good

a minute later save to thwart Chipperfield.

The Kingz started the second half with a double substitution. Coach Rufer came on himself to a great reception from the crowd, replacing Aaron Silva, and Rob Middleby for Marcus Stergiopoulos.

The Kingz switched straight into attacking mode in the second half with Rufer and Middleby boosting the attack.

The double substitution spurred the Kingz into action. Veteran striker Fred de Jong won the Kingz a penalty after 60 minutes when he was held back by Horsley inside the penalty area.

To a chant of "Rufer, Rufer" from the 4000-strong crowd, the Kingz star stepped up and sent goalkeeper Leslie Pogliacomi the wrong way as he slotted his shot into the corner of the net, yet it was Wolves who lifted their play after the goal.

Shane Rufer was fuming over a poor first half which cost his team his the game.

After the match Rufer said being down 0-2 at the break had left his team needing to take risks.

"That meant we left too much space at the back.

"The Wolves would be close to the best team we have faced so far. Their players were quicker to the 50-50 balls." Wolves coach Nick Theodorakopoulos said he was pleased with the result as "we like to beat quality opposition".

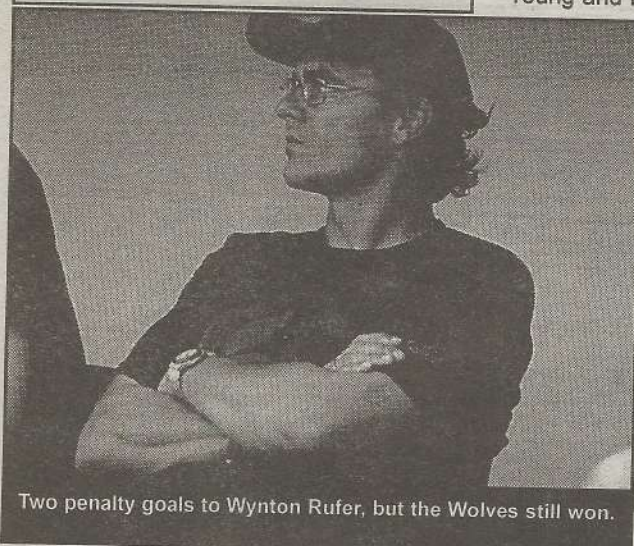
He said the Kingz had the potential to finish in the top six in the league.

Aaron Lines, who was ruled ineligible for the Kingz after a late return from Germany, said he was disappointed transfer arrangements could not have been completed in time for him to play in front of his home crowd.

He hopes to make his debut this weekend when the Kingz are likely to play in front of their biggest crowd of the season, away to Sydney side Northern Spirit.



Wollongong's Sash Petrovski.



Two penalty goals to Wynton Rufer, but the Wolves still won.

By Nick Tolerton

Christchurch's famous rugby headquarters, Jade Stadium, hosted soccer for the first time for more than 40 years when the Kingz met Wollongong Wolves in their Australian NSL match on Saturday night.

However, it was not the celebration fans were hoping for. The Kingz were 0-2 down at halftime, and were no match for a well-drilled Wollongong Wolves team that avenged a 3-3 draw in Auckland two weeks ago, but this time lost 2-4.

The defeat ended a four match unbeaten run just when the New Zealand side had seemed to be finding its feet in the NSL.

The Kingz were playing their first home match outside Auckland because North Harbour Stadium was unavailable due to the world under-17 championships.

The defeat left the Kingz with two wins, two draws and three losses from their first seven matches.

However, the Kingz could not argue

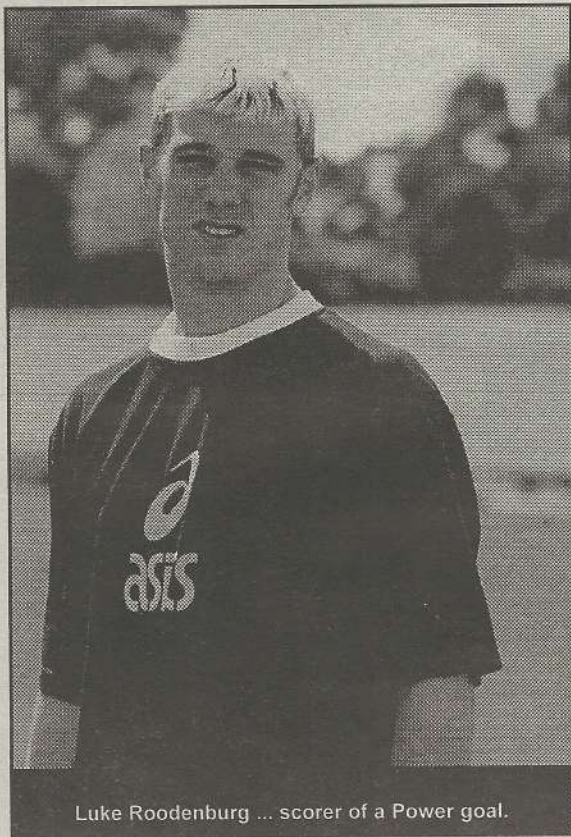
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POWER SURGE CONTINUES



Luke Roodenburg ... scorer of a Power goal.

AIS 2
(Bajurin, Wells)
Sydney Olympic 2
(Disano, Jomaa)

Richard Beazley reports that the AIS were unlucky not to take maximum points after their National Youth League match against Sydney Olympic played at the AIS fields on Saturday evening.

It was Olympic, however, who had the first shot of the match with barely 20 seconds on the clock. Indeed for the next 10 minutes the AIS were under extreme pressure both from the Olympic strike force of Damian Disano and Ali Chahine and also the referee with a number of free kicks given against the home team.

Some good play from AIS captain Grant Last and Tommy Bajurin in the 22nd minute saw an excellent cross from Bajurin, however, there was no one supporting at the far post with the Olympic's goalkeeper John Karoubas well beaten. In the 24th minute Last was once again involved when he played the ball to Elias Demourtzidis whose shot went just wide.

In the 34th minute it was the AIS that took the lead when Bajurin looked as though he had taken too many touches, however, he recovered to strike the ball past Karoubas for a 1-0 lead.

Olympic started to press forward resulting in a number of chances with the one that came closest just before half time when Disano's shot went over so close just shaving the cross bar.

The last of the scoring chances for the first half came from the AIS when Demourtzidis' first shot hit Karoubas in the chest and his second was cleared by Paul Kohler off the line. Danny Vasilevski and Bajurin combined well resulting in a cross which Demourtzidis could have headed another goal.

After the break it was obvious that Olympic were after a quick equaliser.

The AIS lost possession in a dangerous position and were guilty of not closing down quickly enough. Disano punished them for the mistake hitting the ball past the AIS goalkeeper Peter Wood.

Wood made two crucial high quality saves in the 53 minute which relieved some of the pressure on the AIS defence.

Five minutes later the AIS retook the lead when new scholarship holder Dustin Wells came forward from his front sweeper position for a Vasilevski corner which the Olympic goalkeeper fumbled. Wells easily put away the rebound for his first goal for the AIS.

Olympic made three substitutions mid-way through the half in an effort to rejuvenate their attack which had somewhat lost its way up until this time.

Meanwhile the AIS continued to pressure Olympic but were unable to capitalise on a few goalkeeping errors by Karoubas.

It was, however, in injury time that

Olympic stole a valuable point when Hussein Jomaa beat his markers to make the score 2-2.

Best for the AIS were Last, Wells and Wood while Olympic's best was Kohler.

AIS: Wood, Sullivan, Mrkela, Bruett, Brodie, Wells, Cvetanoski, Vasilevski, Last (Hathway), Demourtzidis, Bajurin (G Talevski).

Olympic: Karoubas, Kohler, Biviano, Durante, Disano, Kyriazopoulos, Jomaa, Nicolaou, Chahine (Papadopoulos), D'Apuzzo (Bariamis), Settis (Nohra).

Roy Hay reports that in the Southern Division Melbourne Knights and South Dandenong played a six-goal thriller at Knights Stadium in Round 4 on Sunday.

South Dandenong should have been two ahead in the first half when Menzor Memeti beat keeper Paul Di Giorgio to the ball only to see his shot roll past the post. Then Viktor Memeti slalomed through the defence to hit the keeper with his shot and Ali Dava blasted the rebound which bounced off the prone keeper's legs.

Having spurned these chances the visitor was punished by Jasmin Sehic who got to the bye-line and drove in a cross which Anthony Pelikan put away with a fierce header.

Two minutes before the interval South Dandenong equalised through Ali Dava whose 25 metre shot flew into the top left corner of the goal. Keeping up the pressure early in the second half South Dandenong took the lead in 51 minutes as Viktor Memeti lifted the ball over the keeper and just under the bar.

Viktor Memeti made a spectacular dive in the penalty area which did not fool the referee and the Knights broke quickly through Mark Paleka, but when he went down the

penalty was awarded and Pelikan scored his second from the spot.

A free kick out on the right by Sehic found the head of super-sub Josip Loncaric at the far post and though the ball was cleared from under the bar, the assistant referee ruled that it had crossed the line to put the Knights in front.

It would have been unfair if South Dandenong had taken nothing from the game and it got its chance with a penalty kick in 87 minutes converted by Fitim Ibraimi.

Cheryle Martin reports that Carlton were fortunate to leave Albury with a two-nil win after failing to convert numerous chances.

Albury Wodonga Warriors matched their more fancied opponents but also failed to capitalise on opportunities in both halves. Carlton scored in the 8th minute after a defensive error left Ace Stojcevski with the ball inside the box with only the keeper to beat.

From there on the game was very even with Carl Mills, Adam Griffith and Javi Martinez taking control in the midfield.

David Martin and Michael Binney up front found more space and the Warriors looked more likely to score.

The second half started with the Warriors pushing forward and several free kick opportunities from David Martin were covered by Carlton keeper Steven Tilovski.

Carlton's second goal came from another error by the Warriors who played a ball inside in their defensive third which was picked up by the Carlton midfield and fed again to an unmarked Stojcevski who converted.

The game was even for most of the second half with both teams failing to convert good chances. A positive performance from the Warriors which will give them confidence in future weeks.

Bulleen Inter hammered Preston Lions by seven goals to nil at Hosken Reserve. Ryan Ollerton and Xhezair Sulemani each scored two, and the others were from Les Gerdes, Adam Curcija, and an own goal. Bulleen was just too good for a young Preston team.

The Victorian Institute of Sport beat Gippsland Falcons three-nil at Mobil Stadium. Naum Sekulovski scored his second goal in two games after 18 minutes to put the VIS ahead, but it was the seventieth minute before Steven Pace could add to that lead.

Evan Papadopoulos made the result secure with the third goal after 77 minutes. Ernie Merrick is off to China on exchange for three weeks and reports that the VIS put in a good disciplined performance. Aaron Healey will coach the team while Merrick is overseas.

NORTHERN DIVISION

P W D L F A Pts

Parramatta Power	6	6	0	0	23	1	18
A.I.S.	7	5	1	1	28	6	16
Sydney Olympic	5	3	2	0	11	4	11
Q.A.S.	5	3	1	1	19	5	10
Northern Spirit	5	3	1	1	7	5	10
Newcastle Breakers	7	3	0	4	10	11	9
Northern Spirit Colts	5	2	2	1	7	4	8
A.C.T.A.S.	5	2	2	1	10	11	8
N.S.W.I.S.	5	2	1	2	6	4	7
Wollongong Wolves	5	2	0	3	3	7	6
Marconi Stallions	4	2	0	2	3	9	6
Syd Olympic Academy	5	2	0	3	12	20	6
Sydney United	3	1	1	1	3	9	4
Sydney United Colts	7	1	1	5	8	16	4
Newcastle Colts	6	1	0	5	6	15	3
Wollongong Colts	5	0	1	4	4	18	1
Marconi Colts	5	0	1	4	0	15	1

SOUTHERN DIVISION

P W D L F A Pts

Carlton	4	4	0	0	14	2	12
VIS	3	3	0	0	8	0	9
Bulleen Inter Kings	4	3	0	1	10	5	9
Melbourne Knights	4	2	1	1	20	11	7
Gippsland Falcons	3	2	0	1	7	7	6
Fawkner Blues	3	1	2	0	6	2	5
South Melbourne	3	1	0	2	6	5	3
South Dandenong	3	0	2	1	5	6	2
Albury Wodonga	4	0	1	3	6	16	1
Knights Academy	3	0	0	3	2	6	0
Preston Lions	4	0	0	4	1	25	0

NORTHERN DIVISION RESULTS

Parramatta Power 4	Wollongong Colts 0
Kukucka 27', 79'	
Roodenburg 52'	
Thompson 69'	
Sydney United Colts 1	Newcastle Colts 2
Turco 20'	Davelaar 32',
	Provost 53'
Q.A.S. 4	Marconi Colts 0
McKay 45', 88'	
Miner 71', 82'	
Marconi Stallions 1	N.S.W.I.S. 0
(Mondello 51')	
A.I.S. 2	Sydney Olympic 2
Bajurin 35',	Pisano 50',
Wells 58'	Papadopoulos 89'
Syd Olympic Acad 2	Newcastle Breakers 6
Cevenini 3'	Ferguson 23',
Parisi 35'	Mansley 30', 60',
	Rufo 55',
	Johnson 61',
	Cook 65'

A.C.T.A.S. v Sydney United - Played Monday
North. Spirit Colts v Wollong Wolves - Played Monday

SOUTHERN DIVISION RESULTS

Gippsland Falcons 0	VIS 3
	Sekulovski,
	Pace
	Papadopoulos
Preston Lions 0	Bulleen Inter 7
	Ollerton 2,
	Sulemani 2,
	Gerdes,
	Curcija,
	own goal
Albury Wodonga 0	Carlton 2
	Stojcevski 2
Melbourne Knights 3	South Dandenong 3
Pelikan 2	Dava
Loncaric	Ibraimi
Memeti,	

INSIDE OLYMPIC WITH MARCUS PHILLIPS

By Melissa Muscat

I was recently given the task of interviewing Sydney Olympic's English midfielder Marcus Phillips, where it was revealed just how comical his character was when he was away from his on-field duties.

With that to-die-for English accent, Marcus gave Inside Soccer the dirt on his fellow team mates and informed us where his favourite Sydney destinations were.

Favourite night spot: CDB Bar (girlfriend's work)

Favourite café: Jones' (Bondi)

Favourite Beach: Bondi

Favourite shopping spot: Paddington

Favourite sporting venue: The Lakes (golf course)

THEN WE GET PERSONAL....

Funniest team mate: Scot Baillie (although he doesn't mean to be)

Quote of the season: Branko has compared soccer to sex on a number of occasions. But probably Scott Baillie's - he says that one day in a game he kicked someone's leg off when he was 12. The boy had an artificial limb.

Funniest thing you've witnessed all season at training: Zlatko Arambasic is always injured at training. One session he was icing his foot and got stung by a bee. (Now that's irony at its best!)

Who has ever had the most head turning hair style and what was it? Chris Kalantzis - the one he's got now!

Who's the worst singer? Bouhoutsos with that stupid 'Olympic' chant.

Who has the most unusual article of clothing and what is it? Anything in Lindsay Wilson's (pic left) wardrobe.

Which of your team mates is the most successful with women? Pablo tries and wants to be. (We girls at Inside Soccer thought he was!)

Who is the most romantic team mate? Nick Carle - he doesn't leave his girlfriend's side.

What is the best excuse you've heard this season for someone not training? Zlatko missing the evening session because of his bee sting.

Who is the most likely to get hooked on daytime soaps? Me - if I get out of be in time.

Who's go the brains of the team? Lindsay Wilson - he has the highest IQ, so keeps telling everybody.

Which Olympic player can consume the most alcohol? Zoricich - he's always out drinking with Harps (Andy Harper). (Now there's something we didn't know).

Are there any superstitions that Olympic have as a team which they carry out before a game? We get in a circle and Tsekenis says a few words to the team.

Which team mate is most likely to spend his winning bonus at the casino? Nick Carle or his house mate (read on to



Sydney Olympic's Marcus Phillips

If so, give details. No, never. We are dedicated professionals. (Somehow I find that hard to believe).

Who would be most likely to get their nose, tongue or eyebrow pierced? Zorbas - he seems to do anything for attention.

Which of your team mates would we most likely see strutting his stuff on the catwalk? Chi Chi's physique with anybody else's head.

Who would most likely wear a dress in public as part of a dare? Ante Juric will do anything for a dare.

Which two Olympic players are inseparable and what's the craziest thing they've done together? Baillie and Carle - moving in together!

Finally Marcus, we at Inside Soccer have heard a rumour of you cutting fellow team mates' shoelaces at your previous club. Has this activity been carried over to your new club or have you grown out of this craze? No, I don't cut shoelaces anymore. I have resorted to writing on boots and putting people's clothes in the shower and stealing socks and underwear. Just generally being a dickhead!



Scott Baillie: When he was a kid he kicked off someone's artificial leg!

find out who that is!).

Have there been any outing where you team has gotten into any mischief?

'CROOKY'

Spirit's England international
Ian Crook

Out of the darkness of our recent results there was a shining light in our 1-0 loss to Marconi last Saturday night and that was the debuts of Adam and Ryan Griffiths and the form of Jack Sobczyk.

Jack has been playing first grade for three weeks now and is maturing into quite a good defender. He is safe, reliable and as he plays more and more games in the National League he will get even better.

He did a very good job on Sean Babic even though Babic did manage to get on the scoresheet thanks to an ugly goal after just five minutes.

The other youngsters also did very well in just their first National League match.

Adam Griffiths in particular stood out. When young players come through into first grade, whether that be at the very top level or in park football, some players just look like they belong and Adam was certainly in that class.

He looked as though he had played plenty of NSL games and certainly vindicated Arnie's decision to throw him into the starting line up.

He showed tremendous composure on the ball from someone who had not played an NSL match and a couple of time he took on the Marconi defence and looked comfortable.

Adam did lose the ball a few times but that was due to the step up in pace and, as he now knows, you don't get as much time on the ball in midfield in the NSL as you do in the Youth League.

Ryan Griffiths also did enough to show that he has a

future in the game at the NSL level and for an 18-year-old he got through a lot of work.

Northern Spirit has been lacking someone who will run all day up front and Ryan certainly did that.

The match was a hard match with very little room to move and it was not the sort of game for a striker to stand out but he got stuck in and did a job for Arnie.

Looking at the NSL competition ladder it saddens me to see that Northern Spirit is now on the bottom but I plead with our fans to stick by us.

We know we are travelling badly and the players are playing without confidence but the best way for the people who support us to get us out of the hole is turn up in droves and help us through.

I have been playing top-flight football for a long time and have been in similar situations before and trust me, the best way to get out of a slump is to come together and move forward as one unit.

That includes players, official, coaching staff and most importantly, supporters.



ONLY TWO
DAYS
BEFORE
IAN
RUSH
ARRIVES

IN SYDNEY TO PLAY
FOR OLYMPIC! FIRST
GAME V MARCONI AT
BELMORE ON
SUNDAY.



TONY FRANKEN: A vintage drop



Glory's Tony Franken. Is proud that an Australian skipper, like former teammate Bosnich, is captaining the Socceroos.

By Aidan Ormond

It's a well-worn cliché I know but I am going to say it. Like a fine wine Perth Glory keeper Tony Franken gets better with age. At 34 - still relatively young in keeping circles - this Socceroo has been playing out of his skin in front of the many home fans at Perth Oval these last couple of seasons.

And Franken believes this year will not be his last.

"There are a lot of keepers still playing in their 30s. Look I just appreciate the professional set-up in Perth and I am still enjoying playing, so I'd like to keep going as long as possible.

"Don't forget retirement is a long time so

Europe ... look at some of the players over there still going after 35.

"I haven't noticed my reflexes slowing down but as you get older you tend to be able to have a fair idea of what might be coming ahead," he added.

Last weekend was a bit of reunion for ex-Sydney Croatia keepers of the 80s, with Franken in town Friday night for the Power and Glory encounter, then Mark Bosnich fronting for the Socceroos, as captain, for the Brazil match on Sunday.

Franken's memories of 'Bozza' while they were both at Sydney Croatia remain clear.

"He was an U/16 when he was training with the seniors while I was there, so we go back a long way. He was very keen, he trained hard but was a little shy.

"Perhaps now he is a little more cockier but back then he was just this kid with great talent who wanted to learn and train hard.

"He's done everything in the English Premier. I think it's great that he has been chosen as a skipper of his country, he is an exceptional talent," said Franken proudly.

Still on the Socceroos and the Harry Kewell situation is one Franken is suspicious of: "It's very hard to say but I feel Leeds may have put undue pressure on the player and

have basically made the decision for him, although I hope he can come back for the important games."

Franken knows something about the pressures of playing, having been a



Socceroo he is now an integral part of a mainstream sports team garnering massive media attention in Perth.

"It's very enjoyable. There is a lot of press for Perth Glory and all your actions are monitored. It's always great to play in front of such large crowds. It motivates me more, but some players do find the pressure a little hard.

"In Sydney soccer was a back burner, but in Perth it's on par with the other sports. It's not unusual to be recognised in the street."

After the success of last season's finals charge (cut short by Sydney United) Franken is more circumspect about repeating and even surpassing those achievements.

"First of all we need to be in the top six. We have lost eight players from last year. Our expectation, and the public's expectation, is that we will be in the six.

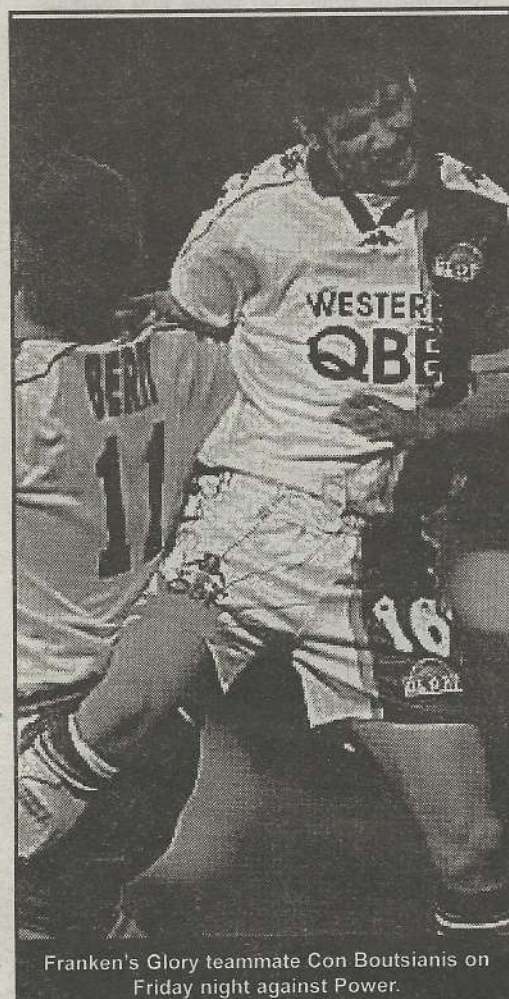
"Going one step further and making the Grand Final I am not 100% certain at this point. I think we are struggling a little at the moment. If we can get the form back from late last year we should do well."

Franken also heaped praise on current league leaders Brisbane Strikers, who went to Perth in round six and won 2-1.

"It's a credit to what they are doing up there," he said. "They are well-organised, very hardworking and motivated. Obviously it's also a credit to the QAS which produces many of their players.

"If they can continue with their form they will be a force to be reckoned with."

Franken is also a qualified teacher. You get the feeling once he has finally retired - hopefully in many years time - his students will want to know about what it was like playing for Australia's biggest football Club, Perth Glory. "Well kids, I remember the time we played Marconi in the Finals in front of 27,000



Franken's Glory teammate Con Boutsianis on Friday night against Power.

you have to be certain!" he said at Sydney airport last Thursday.

Many feel if he keeps his form he can play till he is in his late thirties.

"It seems to be in Australia the mentality is that when you are in your 30s you are over the hill - which is clearly not the case in

MEDIA WATCH: NEW ZEALAND



Football Kingz at North Harbour Stadium.

One of Inside Soccer's New Zealand friends is Grant Stantiall. This week he agreed to be our Media Watch person for the Kingz. Here is what he came up with ..

SYDNEY OLYMPIC V FOOTBALL KINGZ BELMORE OVAL, SYDNEY, NOVEMBER 7, 1999

The following is my rough guide to the media reporting of the Kingz game. The information was obtained from the newspaper section in the Hamilton Library.

Unfortunately I was unable to access as many papers as I would have liked but I did manage to check a cross-section of eight provincial newspapers.

These newspapers were:

Rotorua's DAILY POST, Gisborne's THE HERALD, from Napier/Hastings region, the HAWKES BAY TODAY, New Plymouth's THE DAILY NEWS, Palmerston North's EVENING STANDARD, the WANGANUI CHRONICLE, Wellington's DOMINION and my local rag the WAIKATO TIMES.

Have a look at my findings and make up your own mind as to how well our newspapers are doing when it comes to coverage of the Football Kingz.

PHOTOS

Of the eight papers reviewed by MEDIA WATCHDOG STANTIAL, I'm rather saddened to report that only one paper - the Waikato Times had a photo supporting the write-up. This was however, an old archive mugshot of Che Bunce, taken before he was old enough to shave.

COPY

Another poor indictment on the state of our media, was the number of papers who used the NZAP copy for their published article. Once again, the Waikato Times led the way, with Ian Anderson actually preferring to do his own write-up on the match. Six papers ran with the NZAP blurb, while THE DAILY NEWS of New Plymouth did not have any mention of the game whatsoever.

NUMBER OF WORDS IN ARTICLE

Waikato Times' Ian Anderson wrote 205 words in his page 11 article. The Times also had a 43 word front page mention of the Kingz' win. Of

those taking the easy option and using NZAP, The Daily Post of Rotorua ran with a massive 570 word article, the Evening Standard used 493 words, The Dominion allocated 183 words, The Herald (Gisborne) printed 153 words, Hawkes Bay Today went to 121 while in Wanganui, the Wanganui Chronicle must be going easy on their printing ink. A 39 word column was plainly pathetic.

Of course if you lived in New Plymouth, you'd have never known that the Kingz had even played over the weekend, let alone won the game. I guess they spent too much time covering Taranaki Rugby's award for play of the season...the infamous punch!

SPOT THE ERRORS

Daily Post: "With eight minutes remaining on the clock, Kingz central defender Ivan Vicelich deflected a near post header into the net and then helped out his defensive line to try to hold out the marauding ITALIANS. Try Greeks....

The Daily Post, Herald and Standard spelt Olympic goalscorer as Pabloo Cardozo. That is like spelling Paul Urlovic as Paaul Urlovic! The Dominion got it right: Pablo Cardozo.

Note: I was unable to check any South Island papers as they were not yet available in the library. However the Press did run a good advertisement for the Kingz v Wollongong in Saturday's edition.

IN SUMMARY

I would like to point out that printing photos of the victorious Australian rugby team ahead of our own Kingz, smacks of ignorance towards all soccer fans in this country.

You'd never get an Australian paper printing a photo of the All Blacks if they had won, so why do we do it?

We've got a soccer team that is performing above all expectation. Don't let this opportunity pass by. Print some pictures of our Kingz players. They deserve a fair go...and they are winners!

If New Zealand newspapers are prepared to run huge copy on losing sports teams then sports reporting in this country really is in a sorry state.

*Grant Stantiall appears courtesy of Sitter! the fanzine.

READERS' FORUM

■ I was one of the first with my hand up; "I'm gutted"; "I can see that boarding pass being ripped away from me and it hurts like hell".

Does any of the above sound familiar? It might, if you've been reading the newspaper column which goes out under Harry Kewell's name in various Sunday newspapers in this country.

For if memory serves me correctly these utterances (or similar), have been made in that column at various stages of the build-up to the current Socceroos v Brazil series.

They were meant to capture Kewell's feelings about playing for his country and, later, upon missing out on the series due firstly to his club's refusal to release him and then, when that refusal was watered down, upon sustaining injuries which would prevent his participation.

Now, I might be a cynical so-and-so, but from my armchair there has always seemed to be something about Kewell's hand-on-heart announcements that was unconvincing.

I mean, it's all just a little bit too strident, a bit too much of the "I really mean it, honest I do!" flavour, isn't it?

Surely, if your heart is in the right place there's no need to go running around telling everyone about it.

Stan Lazaridis, for instance, doesn't shout his loyalties to the rooftops. He simply busts a gut to turn up for the Socceroos, then strains every fibre of his body on the field of play, and we can tell exactly where he's coming from.

Yes, even though life is full of grey areas, most of us have learned that the one sure method of working out who might be trying to put one over on us is to look for consistency between what they say and what they do.

In this case, we can't see any consistency.

Not that we should be naive enough to believe that Kewell actually writes the stuff that appears under his name.

Indeed, given the inherent contradictions in some of it, it would be surprising to learn that he even reads it before it gets published.

No, it seems likely, even from this distance that Kewell's newspaper articles are written by a journo in the employ of Kewell's personal management team - or a "spin doctor" in today's parlance.

But the spin doctor would not be writing this stuff in a vacuum. He or she would need to have a broad understanding of what Kewell wants from the articles, and from where I sit it's beginning to look suspiciously as if Kewell has, at some point after the last failed World Cup campaign, sat down with his personal management team and said something like: "Now listen guys, I do want to play for my country but not now. Not until the next World Cup qualifiers. In the meantime, I need to concentrate on developing my career with Leeds United without having the folks back home questioning my loyalty to my country. Can you fix it for me?"

"Sure Harry" might have come the reply, "Just leave it to us. We'll write a weekly newspaper column for you and get your club to take the rap. They'll be only too happy, 'cos it's in their interests".

Let's say at this point that no-one should be too judgmental about Kewell's reasons for not turning out for the Socceroos. He might have very good reasons for not doing so.

Whatever they are, they obviously matter to him. He might simply be physically and mentally exhausted from the exertions that come as part and parcel of playing for a successful English club in the non-stop, overly greedy domestic and Euro club football environments.

He might find the travel back to Australia more trying than other players do. Maybe, just maybe, he even has a Bergkamp-style fear of flying. Then again, maybe he just doesn't want to play for Australia.

All the above is idle speculation, to



be sure, but unfortunately idle speculation is exactly what you encourage when you tell people one thing, behave otherwise, and then don't fill in the resulting gap with some meaningful explanations.

Notably, Kewell's column after failing to show up for the current series was vague and lacking in any real conviction and detail about why he didn't show.

"Even if I had made it back, there's no guarantee I'd have been fit to play anyway. I'm carrying calf and ankle injuries and it would have been touch and go. I hope I'm still in Frank's plans for the future..."

That's about as close as we got to the real Harry Kewell, before the article launched into a glowing précis of the remaining players in the series he was now missing. Why had this now taken on the appearance of an IMG press release?

I would like to think I speak for the majority of Australian soccer fans when I say "Let's have an end to this nonsense". It would be nice, would it not, if Kewell

could get around a table with his personal advisers, his club and his national team coach, lay his cards face up, and see if something can be sorted out that is acceptable to all?

And then communicate the result directly to his Socceroo team mates and the Australian public - all of whom deserve a better explanation of Kewell's situation than the dross which is currently appearing in Sunday newspaper columns under his name.

Maybe then the player, his club manager and his national team coach could all get on with their jobs free of the uncertainty caused by the perpetual club versus country tug o'war, and we, the soccer public, could stop indulging in idle speculation and buying tickets on the strength of false promises.

Steve Pitman
E-mail

AND THE WINNER IS ... SYDNEY? Cont.

Continued from page six

"I believe we should reduce the number of teams in the league to 10, or maybe 12 maximum.

"It's simple, the more teams you bring in the further you reduce the standard and I don't believe there is enough talent to go around.

"I've got no doubt that having so many clubs from one city weakens those teams."

Maloney dismisses the suggestion that arrogance has been costly to the NSW-based clubs over a particularly lean past decade.

But he does concede that at both his most recent clubs, Sydney Olympic and Marconi, he has sometimes felt a pervasive sense of superiority.

"I think at certain clubs at times there are people who might be thinking 'well, because we are Marconi or Sydney

Olympic we should win it', but maybe they don't actually do too much about it," he said.

"But at the end of the day I still believe that much of the success of the South Melbourne's and Adelaide City's comes down to the footballing structure of the club.

"You look at both of those clubs and they have had stability, they've maintained a consistency amongst the playing staff, coaching staff and in the back room."

Ironically, the city which once dominated the NSL was successful with significantly less club representation, certainly in proportion to the overall size of the competition during the particular era.

Sydney sides were resoundingly dominant in winning 10 of the first 14 national league championships after the competition began in 1977.

The lustre of that silverware has long

been covered by cobwebs, although there is a school of thought that the cyclical nature of any sport will start returning Sydney clubs to the winner's podium, probably sooner rather than later.

"You've got to hope so," says Mariani.

"But the competition has been levelled over the past few years and no clubs will find it easy."

"I believe the cycle will turn in the near future," says Wade, a former parochial Victorian now based in Sydney.

"I really believe that the recent success of South Melbourne will be the last of the Victorian and South Australian NSL domination."

More than most Patterson does appreciate Soccer Australia's propensity for rapid Sydney expansion in the current balmy climate being enjoyed by the code, which is producing a rare mood of optimism.

"I feel that Sydney is generally a more entrepreneurial town by nature and the game has a higher profile here in the business communities," he told Inside Soccer.

"At the moment Sydney entrepreneurs see that the conditions are ripe for them to get involved in the game."

Which, it must be said, is terrific for Sydney soccer.

But in real terms for the NSW nexus to be taken seriously again and for SA to justify seriously considering further admissions from Sydney or its surrounds the currently established clubs in the area need to step up and fly the flag, and as soon as possible.

Because winning is still what the caper is all about and Sydney clubs haven't done that for a long, long time.

BRAZIL SHOWS GOLD MEDAL QUALITY WHILE AUSSIES FLOUNDER

AUSTRALIA 0 BRAZIL 2

Alvaro 31 and Alex 38

Sunday afternoon at Stadium Australia

Crowd: 50,325

Temperature 28 degrees; Conditions hot and windy



By Paul Goodwin

Sydney turned on its best summer weather to welcome the Brazilians to town for the first of the two November internationals and it was perhaps unfortunate that the temperature soared at the weekend after a very cold few days in the lead up as the conditions would certainly have suited the South Americans best.

The Socceroos went into the game with captain Mark Bosnich under an injury cloud and without the services of key striker Mark Viduka, a scratching on the morning of the game.

Damian Mori was drafted in to partner Paul Agostino up front, with Steve Corica and Richard Johnson in behind them and Danny Tiatto getting forward as often as possible on the left flank.

The front pairing did not click at all, a make-shift one as it was and it was no surprise when Brad Maloney came on at half time to replace the unconvincing Mori.

Maloney injected some life into the attack on the right, but most of the damage had been done in the first half when Brazil took a 2-0 half time lead.

They did so chiefly because of superior finishing; world class in fact.

They did not enjoy any greater share of possession than Australia, but showed their quality in front of goal with strikes that many better defenders than Australia's would have been troubled with.

The early part of the game showed both sides keen to get forward and it was Australia which did most to please the crowd in the opening 20 minutes.

The industrious and speedy Tiatto worked his way past his marker several times in this opening period and his crosses could have been better dealt with by those they were intended for.

After an opening skirmish which saw Tony Vidmar clatter into Denilson with a very late tackle that surprisingly earned

the Brazilians no more than a free kick, Tiatto got away down the left and sent a pinpoint cross to the far corner of the area where Craig Moore arrived to head well, but not well enough to beat the alert Silvio in goal for the visitors.

Brazil had the ball in the net in the 9th minute but Fabio Junior, who had found himself free in the centre and put away the cross from the left by Denilson, had not seen the raised flag of John Bowdler on the right touchline.

That early let off for Australia was a sign that it was going to be hard work containing these brilliant magicians whose passing, when they got weaving, was fast and furious and too deceptive and well drilled for a static defence to cope with.

Meanwhile, however, the Australians gave of their best in the difficult conditions. Most of the players had just come back from a European winter and found it hard maintaining a fast tempo, but they did work hard and one of the hardest workers, Richard Johnson, tested Silvio fully with a low drive in the 12th minute. It could be said, however, that with Silvio well off his line a lob might have produced more handsome dividends on that occasion.

Rugged defender Kevin Muscat upended the skilful Brazilian left flanker Dede on the touchline in the 14th minute and while he won the ball cleanly with a very strong tackle, Dede had to come off straight away with a knee injury that his coach thought, after the game, might have been serious.

He was to be flown straight back to either Germany, where his club Borussia Dortmund would look at him, or home to Brazil for immediate treatment.

Australia battled away and attempted to take some of the initiative from Brazil, winning a reasonable share of possession, but not to any telling affect.

Corica made a good run forward in the 20th minute and fed Muscat out on the right and from the Wolverhampton man's deep cross, Agostino nodded the ball on

and Mori had his only real chance of the half with a challenging header at the far post, which again Silvio dealt with easily.

Brazil stepped up a gear from this stage of the game and there were several scares in the home

defence, initially Fabio Junior getting the better of Moore just inside the box and firing inches wide and Alex also drove a low ball wide of the upright from close range with the game only 24 minutes old.

Fabio Bilica had moved forward from deep and begun to exchange passes with Ronaldinho, but the latter fed Junior instead and his lunge at the ball between defenders almost produced the first goal.

Alex, in his own attempt, had made a powerful run from deep as well, with some nimble footwork taking him past a clutch of players.

The brilliant Athirson, who had replaced the injured Dede, made a strong run through in the 29th and wound up with a firm shot that Bosnich could only parry, leaving Fabio Junior with the crumbs, but the ball skimmed past the wrong side of the post for the Brazilians.

Bosnich had done well here and produced another top save a minute later, when he came off his line to block Junior's attempts to capitalise on a fine through pass by the blond-haired Mozart.

Brazil won a corner on the left in the 31st and elected to take it short, Denilson playing it to the side for Ronaldinho who then clipped the ball cleverly to the far post where Alvaro easily outjumped his marker Tiatto to nod into the top right corner of Bosnich's goal.

Johnson had two opportunities for the Socceroos soon after this setback, both his shots going wide, but Brazil showed no mercy and added a second goal soon enough.

In the 38th Alex took a quick free kick just inside the Australian half and fed the ball out wide on the left to Denilson.

The skipper then sent over a diagonal, searching ball to the near post, where Alex had ambled into the box and managed to sneak in between Muscat and Vidmar, to get the sweetest of touches on the ball and steer it past the helpless Bosnich.

It was another goal of some class.

The second half continued the pattern with Brazil looking dangerous every time they moved forward and in the 58th Denilson set up Fabio Junior with a precision pass that allowed the shaven-haired number 9 to drive powerfully at goal where Bosnich saved well, the loose ball falling to the youthful Alex whose follow-up shot was brilliantly pushed over the bar by an unbalanced Bosnich, probably the save of the game.

Possibly Australia's best chance to score arrived on the hour when substitute Brad Maloney, who did not look at all out of place in a Socceroo shirt, got the better of his man out wide on the right and crossed for Agostino, whose shot from 12 yards went hopelessly above the target.

There was a free kick which Ned Zelic struck well and which in turn a defender cleared to safety via the outside of the post in the 73rd and another Agostino effort which went wide, but not a great deal more to excite the crowd which by this stage was heavily into their self imposed distractions of the Mexican wave.

Zeljko Kalac came on for Bosnich, who felt some tightening of his troubling leg muscle, as the game wore on and the lanky keeper had little to do during his 15 minutes on the field. Warley, the Brazilian substitute, featured in both the late attempts on goal which Kalac was able to deal with in accomplished fashion.

By this time Alex, Fabio Junior and Ronaldinho had all been replaced and Brazil was able to coast home for a comprehensive win.

Both teams used only four of their permitted five substitutes, Hayden Foxe, Josip Skoko and Steve Laybutt remaining on the bench for Australia, with Brazil keeping Alexandre, Michel, Jean, Milton do 'O and Renato all for another day.

The match was not a classic; it had some skill and attractive touches from the, mostly, very young South Americans and a committed, determined performance from Australia.

European based players such as Okon and Zelic did not show their customary influence on the game, coming from a cold northern winter to an unusually warm November day.

Given the National Soccer League's insistence on evening kick offs, now that daylight saving and the warmer weather is upon us, the wisdom of playing in the full glare of the late spring sun must be questioned.

Certainly, Socceroo coach Frank Farina did not think it helped his side one bit.

Johnson and Tiatto worked very hard and did their chances of future selection no harm at all, while there may have been some question marks raised against the likes of Vidmar and Agostino, who failed to flatter.

Many of the Brazilians were individually a joy to watch and considering their youth, we can expect further improvement before they come here for the Olympics and their mission has been clearly stated as winning that event for the first time.

Faced with an Olyroo team instead of a Socceroo side they will be even harder to beat next year.

*Mark Bosnich flew home yesterday for treatment on his hamstring. Clint Bolton has replaced him in the squad, and Pablo Cardozo has also been called up for tomorrow night's game at the MCG.

THE DAY BRAZIL WAS FREE!



MATCH STATS

AUSTRALIA - Bosnich 7 (Kalac 77), Muscat 6, Moore 7, Okon 6 (Emerton 76), Vidmar 6, Johnson 7, Zelic 5, Corica 7, Agostino 5 (Babic 76), Tiatto 8, Mori 4 (Maloney 7)

BRAZIL - Silvio 7, Mancini 5, Fabio Bilica 7, Alvaro 9, Marcos Paulo 8, Dede 7 (Athirson 8), Ronaldinho 6 (Adriano 6), Mozart 8, Fabio Junior 8 (Warley 7), Alex 9 (Lincoln), Denilson 7

Yellow Cards:

Australia: Danny Tiatto 65, Kevin Muscat 69, Richard Johnson 90

Brazil: Alex 74

Corners: Aust 3 Brazil 8

Offsides: Aust 1 Brazil 6

Shots: Aust 8 Brazil 6

Shots on Goal: Aust 5 Brazil 6

Fouls: Aust 19 Brazil 20

Actual Playing Time: 62 minutes (31 minutes in each half)

Referee: Brett Hugo

Assistants: John Bowdler and Alex Spiroski



WHAT THEY SAID AFTER THE GAME

FRANK FARINA

"I'm very disappointed with this result, but it's better to start like this than to win 14 matches on the trot and lose the important ones.

"The second half was better than the first, although it wasn't great. I'm sure it will get better - it'll be better in Melbourne than in this game.

"I learnt more in this game today than I ever have before. I've seen certain things that we'll have to work on.

"The lead up, with the Ronaldo affair, has been very frustrating. But at the end of the day you just have to go out there and play the game.

"Tiatto had a fantastic game today, and Bozza did well. Viduka is really struggling with his fitness, but he's desperate to play in Melbourne.

Basically, there is a long way to go for me and the team, but I'm confident we'll get there."

AUSTRALIAN CAPTAIN MARK BOSNICH:

"As Frank said, this game was a very disappointing one for us. I'm not unhappy with my performance as captain, but the main thing is to win, and obviously we didn't do that.

"It's a little bit difficult to play against a side that your expected to beat, as we were doing.

"You've got to question a game of the stature of this being played at this time of the afternoon. With so many of the players used to playing in Europe, the heat affects them badly.

"As for my fitness, it will all depend on what the experts say tomorrow, so I can't make any comment on it right now.

BRAZILIAN COACH WANDERLEY LUXEMBURGO:

Q. Did the Australian team play vio-

lently?

"I believe that violence in a match depends upon the refereeing. In this case the referee let the game play freely.

"The Australians played heavily. Alex has a nose injury and Dede has a knee injury. Dede's injury is a serious one - he'll be flying out tonight. It could be career threatening.

Q. Are you happy with the performance?

"Yes, I'm very happy with the performance of the team. It is a team that's never played together before. As a start, I'm very happy.

"Since we arrived, this team has been presented as young and inexperienced. Today we showed that we are young, but quite experienced.

We didn't walk away from any challenges.

Q. After losing Ronaldo, how did the team behave?

"We are over the Ronaldo affair. I want to talk about this match only - from now on we want to look to the future.

Q. And Ronaldinho?

"He played according to what we thought. He didn't do much running.

Maybe we should give him 120 volts next time to make him run.

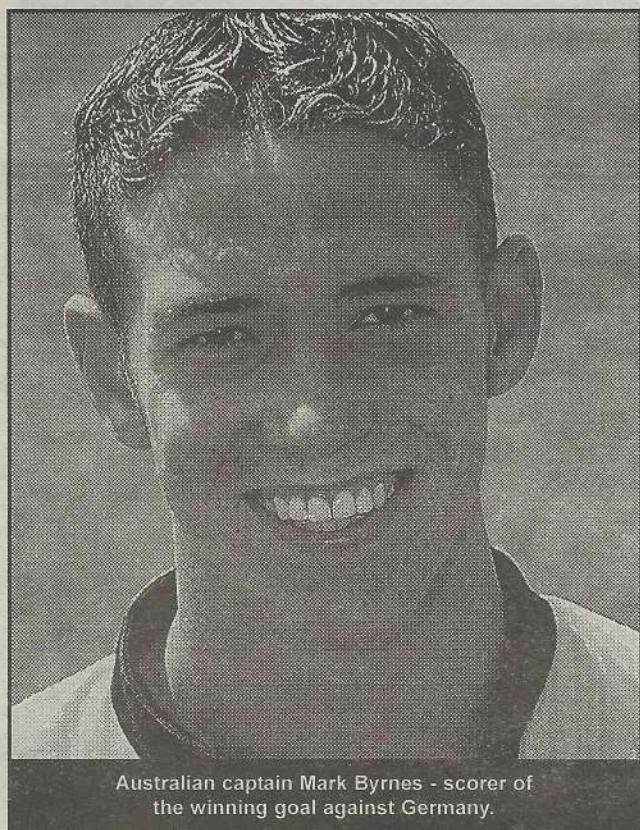
Q. What about the Australians?

"The Australian team is made up of a lot of players with experience, especially when compared with us. They remind me of the way they play in England.

"They play with three defenders and one player up front. They like to take the ball out wide and put in crosses. They use heavy tackling, but they are not violent."

Ben Cubby

AUSTRALIA PRIMED FOR QUARTER FINALS



Australian captain Mark Byrnes - scorer of the winning goal against Germany.

The Australian Joeys are poised to qualify for the quarter finals after a sterling effort to defeat Germany 2-1 after being down 1-0 at half time.

The win in the team's second game was achieved under tremendous pressure as they were beaten in the first game against Brazil by the identical score.

The Aussies play the third team Mali in their last game of the round robin tomorrow.

To ensure qualification the Joeys must beat Mali who have drawn both of their opening games.

A draw would suffice if the Germany versus Brazil result favours the Australians - a draw or a win to Brazil would enable us to advance but a win to Germany and a draw by Australia would complicate the situation as three teams would be on four points and it would come down to goals for and against.

Australia 2
Own goal 65, Byrnes 70

Germany 1
Haas 9

Australia came from behind to upset Germany 2-1 in the second game of group C matches in Christchurch at the world under-17 tournament.

Germany looked to be coasting when they led 1-0 at half time, but 61-year-old Australian coach Les Scheinflug, who came to Australia from Germany as a teenager, gambled at the break by taking off star Joseph Di Iorio, who's at Werder Bremen, and an own goal by the Germans turned the match around dramatically.

It looked plain sailing for the Germans when they took the match to Australia from the start and went ahead after 10min. Leonhard Haas crashed the ball home first time at the near post when he got onto a right wing cross from Florian Heller.

Just before half time Germany lost keeper Jan Schlosser who was fouled by player of the match Wayne Srhoj at a free-kick, Srhoj getting a yellow card.

For the second half Scheinflug brought on Lucas Pantelis for Di Iorio, and Australia, who hadn't got a look in in the first half, became more dangerous.

An own goal by Thomas Hitzlsperger turned the match on its head after 65min, and the fired up Australians went in front 5min later when skipper Mark Byrnes stabbed the ball home in a crowded goalmouth after the defence couldn't clear a free kick by Pantelis.

Australia should have wrapped up the match soon after. Louis Brain got on to a tough ball from Dylan MacAllister and beat replacement keeper Dennis Eilhoff, but the ball bobbled agonisingly just wide of the far post.

Germany threw everything at the Aussies after that, but, led by centreback Adrian Madaschi who's with Atalanta, Australia defended superbly to win.

The Germans were shattered by the result, and some were in tears.

They are now bottom of the group, while the Aussies have a royal chance of qualifying if they can hold Mali in the final group match.

Coach Scheinflug was happy with the second half turn around and commented:

"We changed the team around at half time, pushing Dylan MacAllister forward, and the improvement was almost immediate, even though it took another 20 minutes to get on the board.

"It was an excellent effort by the boys, who really needed to win this one, but it's going to be a totally different match against Mali for our last game.

"Mali drew nil-all today against Brazil, they play a very sharp, quick game, but if we can contain them for 45 minutes, then we will have a good chance."

Australia: Kedwell-Vanstrattan; Goulding, Madaschi, Byrnes; Brain, MacAllister, Srhoj, North(Fyfe 90+), Cansdell-Sheriff McDonald, Di Iorio(Pantelis 46(Kennedy 82)).

Germany: Schlosser (Eilhoff 43)Thorwart, Wilking, Kringe(Niemann 74), Hitzlsperger, Heller, Hinkel, Haas, Fink, Beckert, Gorlitz(Fuelner 35)

Yellow Cards:
Wilking(GER) 40', Srhoj(AUS) 41', Pantelis(AUS) 57', Byrnes (AUS) 71', Fink(GER) 79', North (AUS) 93'.

Brazil 2
Marquinhos 30, own goal 66

Australia 1
MacAllister 81

Brazil did just enough to secure a 2-1 victory over Australia in the opening Group C encounter at FIFA's Under-17 World Championships in Christchurch on November 11.

Veteran Australian coach Les Scheinflug was angry his team didn't get a draw against titleholders Brazil in the first group C match in Christchurch at the world under-17 championships.

Two costly mistakes at corner kicks

gave Brazil a 2-1 win in spite of a battling finish by the Junior Socceroos.

On a QE2 Park surface made slick by inclement rain, the defending champions were confronted by an Australian side which adopted "in-your-face" tactics, thus making for an at times niggly encounter.

To their credit, the Brazilians maintained their standards, looking to impose their well-practised passing game on proceedings. The Joeys' tactics made it difficult for the South Americans, however, while Brazil's clever utilisation of the off-side trap spoilt numerous Australian raids.

Given these conditions, and the playing conditions themselves, it seemed ever more likely, as the game wore on, that an error would prove crucial in determining the outcome, and so it proved.

A hot nor'west Show Day is a great Canterbury tradition. Unfortunately this was the first wet one anyone can remember, and Brazil could perhaps blame the steady rain and a wet pitch for their failure to produce the sparkle the crowd of more than 5000 expected.

After an opening half hour in which Brazil went close through Caca and Eduardo, Australia's goalkeeper, Jess Kedwell-Vanstrattan, fumbled Carlos Henrique's inswinging corner, which allowed Marquinhos to punish his error mercilessly from close range.

Australia showed they were far from done when Shane Cansdell-Sheriff (who's with Leeds) raked the top of the net with a fierce drive, and at the other end clever striker Souza missed a sitter just before half time.

This goal spurred the Joeys to greater efforts, and before the interval, they went close through Scott McDonald, Shane Cansdell-Sheriff - this a well-struck dipping twenty-five yard volley, and captain Mark Byrnes.

But the Brazilians had the last say in the spell, Caca blazing over after Anderson and Leandro had combined to good effect on the left. Three minutes into the second half, a concerted ten-pass build-up resulted in Leo lifting a shot just over the bar from the edge of the penalty area.

After Souza had fired a Carlos Henrique free-kick straight at Kedwell-Vanstrattan, Australia went close to levelling matters through McDonald, following fine work by Joseph Di Iorio. Marquinhos headed the danger clear on this occasion.

Australian defender Aaron Goulding, who'd nearly headed into his own net from a first half corner kick, unfortunately hit the jackpot from another corner 23min into the second half. The kick was delayed for a minute or two while officials repaired the corner flag on the other side. Concentration slipped, and when Brazil finally, not for the first time, Kedwell-Vanstrattan flapped at the dropping ball, which cannoned off the knee of the unfortunate Goulding straight into the net to give Brazil a 2-0 advantage.

"The stupid own goal destroyed us - we were all the way in the game," said Scheinflug afterwards.

At this point, the leaders on the scoreboard - the Joeys matched them in most other aspects of the game - slipped into cruise mode, seemingly content with their lot. This stirred the Australians into attempting a comeback. To their credit, they almost pulled off the seemingly unthinkable - snatching a draw against the defending champions by coming from



two goals down.

The catalyst for this renewed belief in their own ability was the sight of the ball nestling in the back of the Brazilian net in the 81st minute. Jade North was the key player in the move, holding onto possession before picking out Louis Brain's run down the right. Brain's first-time cross arced towards the far post, where substitute Dylan MacAllister was on hand to steer the ball home.

Suddenly, everything seemed to be going Australia's way. But it proved to be a little too late for them to make an impact on the final outcome, although Di Iorio and North, twice, went close before the finish. That said, Leo's surging run in injury time could well have seen Brazil win by slightly more than the final 2-1 scoreline.

Scheinflug, while disappointed with the result saw the positives in the second half performance.

"We were very unlucky to lose against Brazil today.

"In the first half the boys were a little nervous, however they went out in the second half and took the game to Brazil.

"We had many chances to level the score or win, however we were unable to convert these."

Brazil: Rubinho; Carlos Henrique, Marquinhos, Ricardo; Eduardo, Walker, Anderson (booked, 36), Caca, Leandro (Wellington, 90); Leo, Souza

Australia: Kedwell-Vanstrattan; Goulding, Madaschi, Byrnes; Brain, Groves (MacAllister, 60), Srhoj (booked, 75), North, Cansdell-Sheriff (booked, 53); McDonald (Kennedy, 67), Di Iorio

Referee: Tomasz Mikulski (Poland)

Scoring: Brazil: Marquinhos (30), own-goal (66)

Australia: D. MacAllister (81)



Les Scheinflug ... Australian coach.

FIFA UNDER 17 WORLD CUP - NEW ZEALAND



Under a constant rain, a good crowd of almost 15'000 spectators watched an exciting opening match of the U-17 World Championship and a deserved US victory

Host New Zealand were clearly the better team at the beginning and dominated the first 35 minutes.

Their lead after 16 minutes was deserved, before favourite USA got better along with the underdog and created two good chances to equalize. After the break, the New Zealanders now had the wind against them and were early reduced to ten, the US team dominated and finally turned the match within five minutes to a deserved victory against a brave host team.

The second match in Group A was quite an even game with a better second half. The draw at the end was a fair reflection of the match. Two technically good sides performed quite nervous in the first half, in which both teams only created each one good chance to score, because they rather neutralized each other in the midfield. A goal of Uruguay, scored only a few seconds in the second half, let the game improve. The equalizer of Poland, a wonderful shot, was deserved. The match remained open for both teams to score with advantages for Poland.

In the second round robin games two penalties shortly before the end of each half made a just draw between USA and Poland in an intensive match with good football. It was a concentrated and even first half with each team moving at a high pace. However, as a collective the physically strong Polish side made the better impression. Shortly before the half, Convey brought down Piotr Brozek in the box and Madjed converted the penalty. With two changes for the second half, the US team improved their game and created some chances. Still, the Polish side refused to let their guard down testing the American defence. With minutes left on the clock, it was the USA's turn to convert a penalty and even the score.

The second defeat for host New Zealand in an entertaining match under

perfect conditions leaves hardly a chance for the home team to advance to the next round. A physically and technically superior Uruguayan side clearly dominated in the first half as the Kiwis sorely missed their suspended captain and playmaker Mulligan. The well deserved 2-0 lead might have been higher if Nathu hadn't made two brilliant saves. The situation wasn't much different after the break. Uruguay continued to control their opponents, which deserved respect for their fighting spirit.

In Group B Mexico opened with a comfortable win over Thailand. In a match of contrasting styles, Mexico's physical play and size were decisive factors as the Thais were unable to penetrate Mexico's disciplined defence.

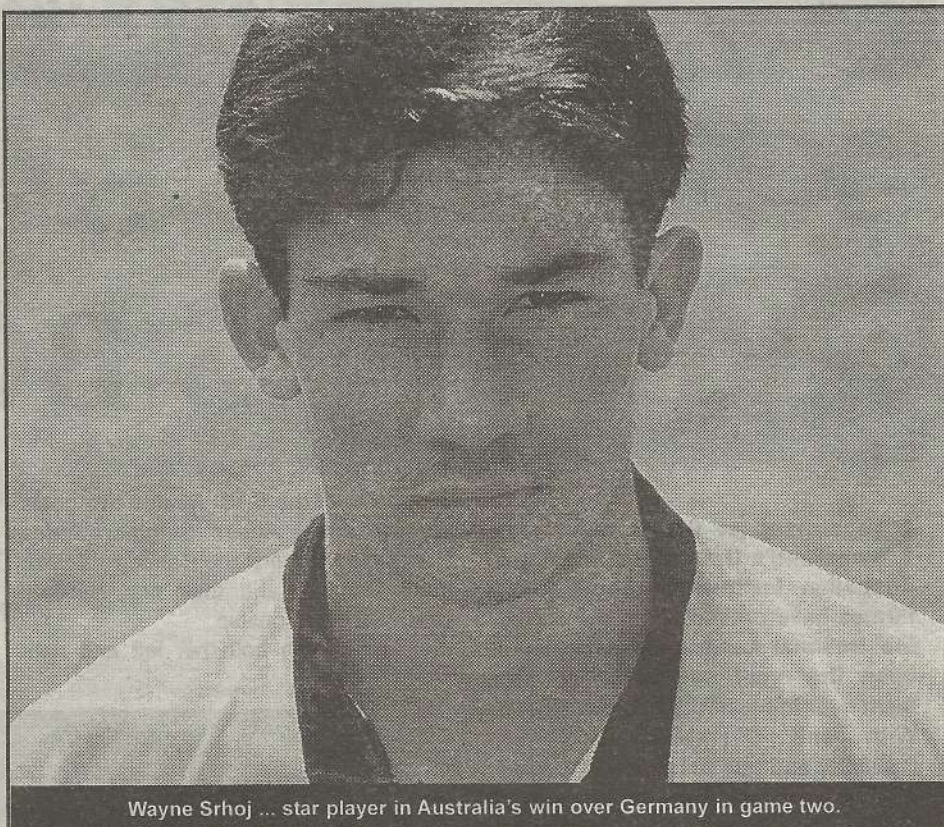
Mexico dominated the first half scoring twice. After an early goal in the second half, the Thais dominated the rest of the way but their fine passing game lacked the final scoring touch. Mexico continued to be dangerous on counterattacks culminating in their fourth goal scored by Grijalva in the 76th minute.

In a tough match between two accomplished teams Ghana and Spain drew 1-1, the flowing football of the first half disintegrated into a bruising encounter in the second. Ghana scored with a brilliant goal in injury time of the first half, Attiku rounding off a superb passing combination. Ghana created more chances overall but the game became increasingly fragmented until Mario headed a 97th minute equaliser for a just result.

Ghana's second game saw them defeat Mexico by 4-0. In a brilliant first half, featuring an open end-to-end game, the difference came off a set play. In the 38th minute, a free kick outside the box found an open Lamptey, who stroked a forceful low shot - beating the keeper to his right. The outstanding level of play continued in the second half with Ghana converting in the 71st minute. After that, Ghana took control of the game utilising speed and cohesive team play to again score in the 75th minute. The clean and highly entertaining match was clearly the best game to date in Group B. Silky elegant midfielder Sanchez helped Mexico maintain fighting throughout the match. With time winding down, Attiku scored with a brilliant shot from outside the box beating the keeper to the upper right hand corner.

For the first 30 minutes, Thailand was able to contain Spain's insistent attacks up the middle and on the left flank led by outstanding defender Corrales who constantly went forward. Aitor scored the first goal for Spain connecting off a loose ball after a fine save by the Thai keeper. A series of defensive lapses allowed Spain to easily penetrate the Thai box and score three more times. Five minutes into the second half, substitute Jonathan volleyed a pass from the left flank into the net for Spain. Spain sealed their scoring run in injury time as Aitor completed a hat-trick beating Thailand's keeper one on one for the goal.

In Group D Paraguay opened the score against the run of play with a looping shot from Fretes that eluded all in the Qatar goal area. Guzman added a second goal in the second half by drawing the Qatari goalkeeper and calmly converting.



Wayne Srhoj ... star player in Australia's win over Germany in game two.

Qatar showed some good skill and can consider themselves a little unlucky at the scoreline but once Paraguay were 2-0 ahead the Asians had no answer.

Burkina Faso got a fortunate break against Jamaica for an early goal in the 12th minute, when goalkeeper Aliien Whittaker spilled a speculative shot from Djibril Compaore in the wet conditions. Burkina Faso were tactically stronger and could have added more goals with a little more accuracy in front of goal. The rain made it difficult for both teams. Only when the sun came out in the second half, the quality of the game took an upturn.

Burkina Faso's defender Traore conceded an early penalty converted for Qatar by Waleed, who then added a second goal with some good anticipation in front of the goal. Despite losing Campaore before half-time to a red card, the 10-man Burkina Faso team dominated the second period. Tassambedo's powerful free-kick brought it back to 1-2 but - in search of the equaliser - there was no way through a stubborn defence.

In Paraguay's second game they scored with their first serious attack and kept the momentum up through to half-time, helped by some erratic goalkeeping by Jamaica's Whittaker. The goals were

expertly taken by a well-drilled team but Paraguay surprisingly kept a defensive shape in the second half and let Jamaica come at them. Da Silva's penalty made it 5-0 with ten minutes to go while Paraguay's goalkeeper Caballero pulled off two outstanding saves.

In the other Group C games Mali kicked off the match in attacking form but it was German keeper Schlosser who kept the Africans in check. After the break, the match was a more balanced affair with Mali still on the attack. However, it was the German team, that in the end, seemed disappointed with the scoreless draw.

In the game between Brazil and Mali it was a high-speed game between two very skilful teams, the 4000-strong attendance was treated to much action in front of the two goals but both teams failed to create any clear scoring opportunities in the first half. After the interval, the match was rougher with some good chances for both the Africans and Brazil. Mali's Kante lifted the ball over a deserted Brazilian goal while his goalkeeper was called upon to make two vital saves to keep the score-board blank. In the end, neither team was particularly happy to have to settle for a goalless draw but both were nonetheless left with good chances to go through to the quarterfinals.



Florian Hinkel ... part of the strong German team

GROUP A							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Uruguay	2	1	1	0	6	1	4
United States	2	1	1	0	3	2	4
Poland	2	0	2	0	2	2	2
New Zealand	2	0	0	2	1	7	0
GROUP B							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Spain	2	1	1	0	7	1	4
Ghana	2	1	1	0	5	1	4
Mexico	2	1	0	1	4	4	3
Thailand	2	0	0	2	0	10	0
GROUP C							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Brazil	2	1	1	0	2	1	4
Australia	2	1	0	1	3	3	3
Mali	2	0	2	0	0	0	2
Germany	2	0	1	1	1	2	1
GROUP D							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Paraguay	2	2	0	0	7	0	6
Burkina Faso	2	1	0	1	2	2	3
Qatar	2	2	0	1	2	3	3
Jamaica	2	0	0	2	0	6	0



ANISSA TANN-DARBY'S WOMEN'S SOCCER WORLD

KEV THE KEY TO PIRATES BOOM

Regardless of the result of this weekend's Grand Final the South Australian Institute of Sport (SASI) Pirates have proven since the start of the National League that they have been the most successful team over the last four years. With one Championship (1998/99) and two runners up medals to show they have not finished outside the top two in this period of time.

A number of key factors have contributed to their continued success.

Coach Kevin McCormack has been with the team since the beginning and has produced a very cohesive and effective squad.

"Although still considered a young squad, the team overall are very experienced", McCormack said.

Kevin's coaching qualities are there for all to see, his team has had phenomenal success throughout the entire Ansett Summer series competition.

Another key factor has been the presence of long standing captain Sharon Black. She has been an inspiration to her team mates throughout all four seasons. She was awarded the inaugural Julie Dolan Medal as "Player of the Year" for the Ansett Summer Series National League season 1997/8. 'Blacky' was also

the scorer of the SASI Pirates two goals in the 1998/9 Ansett Summer Series Grand Final against the Canberra Eclipse for a 2-0 win and their first National League Championship.

Lethal with both her left and right



she dictates play from her position in mid-field.

Prior to this year's competition another key player for the SASI Pirates was Dianne Alagich. Her contributions to the this year's team has been minimal due to an ankle injury sustained at the Women's World Cup.

Dianne is an extremely powerful and athletic central defender and her contribution at the back has been sorely

missed this year.

Another plus for the SASI Pirates is the fact that the two 'keepers in their squad are also members of the current Matildas.

Tracy Wheeler's (pictured) home state is Western Australia, however, they currently do not have an ITC program so she was drafted into the SASI Pirate team. Leanne 'Ball Magnet' Trimboli has had one of her best seasons in goal, and her recent performance have not gone unnoticed with National coach Chris Tanzey calling her into the Matildas squad for the recent tour to China.

Kevin McCormack also has a number of young outstanding players in his squad. Stacy Stocco, although drafted into the SASI Pirates at the tender age of twelve (12) has this season played exceptional football although still only 15 years of age.

Rebecca Morrison has also had a fantastic season after picking up the "Player's Player of the Tournament" at the recent National Youth Championship in Darwin. Natalie Thomas, another Matilda was unearthed playing for the Pirates and her goalscoring ability for both club and country has been a valuable asset to the teams over the last couple of years. Overall the SASI Pirates success cannot be attributed to any one factor.

However, four final series appearances in a row obviously point to the fact

NEWS IN BRIEF

1999 AUSTRALIAN SCHOOLGIRLS TOUR

The 1999 Australian Schoolgirls will be embarking on a tour of England on November 30. The Australian team will compete against current National Division teams such as Arsenal and will have full internationals against the Welsh and Scottish Schoolgirl teams.

All members will be participating in a pre-tour training camp at Sutherland from November 27. The squad is extremely talented with two outstanding players in Lisa Collins (current NSWIS Sapphires player) and Sarah Hudson, another skillful player from the Central Coast.

SUNNI HUGHES

Goalscoring legend Sunni Hughes has once again had to leave the Matilda camp temporarily due to a family illness. Since returning to the National scene Sunni has had the 'Midas touch'. She had been scoring at all levels of competition and is practically unstoppable. All members of the Matildas' thoughts are with her and her family and we hope to see her as soon as possible.

SASI PIRATES PLAYERS OFF TO ENGLAND

Former female Soccerroo Kristy Moore and Lia Augameri from the SASI Pirates will be off to England at the conclusion of the Ansett Summer Series. Both players have been offered contracts with Southern Division outfit Barnet. Both players have gained lucrative contracts for the 1999/2000 season and after their excellent performances for South Australia they both deserve to have continued success with their own team.

ANSETT SUMMER SERIES GRAND FINAL

After the NSWIS Sapphires convincing 3-0 win over the SASI Pirates the grand final will now be held in Sydney. Prior to Saturday's final round both teams were guaranteed places in the Grand Final. So it was a matter of playing for home advantage.

The final round game for the Sapphires was played at Valentine Sports Park and goals from Michelle Carney, Alicia Cavanagh and Joanne Burgess meant that the Grand Final will be held at Marconi Stadium on Saturday 20th November.

For further information regarding the final please contact Helen Jevons at the NSW Soccer Federation on

(02) 9629 1800

SASI AND SAPPHIRES GRAND FINAL AT MARCONI THIS SAT.

Another intriguing weekend of action in the Ansett Summer Series. Firstly, the teams for the Grand Final are, as expected given their respective form, SASI Pirates and the NSW Sapphires.

Another notable achievement was the struggling Victoria Vision, who won on Sunday beating ACTAS Canberra 3-1.

The full round ten results are as follows.

**NSW SAPPHIRES 3
SASI PIRATES 0**

**VICTORIA VISION 3
ACTAS CANB. 1**

QAS STING 3

NNSW PRIDE 0

Vic Vision, who have been having a terrible time of late finally hit some form even though they went a goal down against Canberra, through a Tal Karp effort.

They stuck to their guns and finally the Vics were rewarded.

Louisa Bisby with a beautiful free-kick got them level. Then Selin Kuralay in a sub appearance gave the Blues a lead with a couple of minutes to go, then the always dangerous Leigh Terak popped up in injury time to make sure with a penalty.

In other games, the dress rehearsal for this weekend's grand final did not bode well for the SASI team, they lost 3-0 to the Sapphires.

Alicia Cavanagh scored with a header then Joanne Burgess made it two after some good lead up work from a terrific prospect in Kelly Golebiowski.

SASI hit back with the goalmachine Sharon Black rattling the crossbar but no goal.

Cassandra Kell in the NSW goal was having a great game, and it was wrapped up 3-0 when Michelle Carney scored with five to go on the clock.

Scorers for QAS in Coffs were Hohnke, Dawney and Maza.

The final points ladder is:
NSW SAPPHIRES 23, SASI PIRATES 19, QAS STING 18, NNSW PRIDE 11, ACTAS 7, VIC VISION 5

SCHOLES SETS ENGLAND ON WAY TO EURO 2000

Paul Scholes once again lived up to his Manchester United nickname as he scored both goals in a 2-0 win at Hampden Park to put England within touching distance of the Euro 2000 Finals.

The United fans sing 'Paul Scholes, he scores goals' and the midfielder did just that in the 21st and 42nd minutes of the play-off first leg.

Scholes' expertly-taken efforts have put Kevin Keegan's side firmly in control going into Wednesday night's return at Wembley.

His finishing was the difference between the two old rivals and Scotland had their chances, but failed to take them.

Kevin Gallacher and Michael Owen went close in the opening minutes before Scholes put England in charge.

His first goal was created by Sol Campbell, who caught the eye playing out of position at right-back, and the Tottenham defender crossed for him to control the ball on his chest and then finish right-footed past Neil Sullivan.

The Scots should have equalised a minute later when a mix-up between Martin Keown and Paul Ince put Kevin Gallacher in a position to shoot. But he missed. Keown and Paul Ince put Kevin Gallacher in his selection ahead of Nigel Martyn by making a great blocking save.

Scholes, who netted a hat-trick against Poland in March, struck again just before half-time when he timed his run to perfection to meet David Beckham's free-kick at the near post and nod home his ninth international goal.

Again Scotland had a chance to score within a minute, but luck was not with them.

Billy Dodds curled a beautiful shot over Seaman's head only for the ball to come off the underside of the crossbar.

The scoreline might even have been worse for Scotland and Scholes had a strong penalty appeal turned down just after the interval when David Weir caught him in the area.

To complete Scotland's afternoon of woe Gallacher picked up a booking, which rules him out of the second leg.

Two-goal hero Scholes was cautioned after his opening strike, but that will not keep him out of Wednesday's clash.

Scholes was cautioned against Poland in March, but his suspension for being sent off against Sweden in September for two bookable offences wiped out that yellow card.

"I got booked for celebrating my first goal - it was a silly thing for me to do. I just held my hands up after I scored the second goal," said Scholes.

"The manager wanted me to get forward as much as I could.

"I didn't think about the goals.

"The first one I took on the chest and managed to slip it past Neil Sullivan.

"Scotland had chances, a couple of great chances, but there was a great save by David Seaman. We are thankful to get a clean sheet.

"We will go out at Wembley to score goals. We won't be defending."

England coach Kevin Keegan was full

of praise for Scholes, saying:

"He is a very impressive player and just because he doesn't talk a lot means he is probably one of those whose actions speak louder than words.

"But Sol Campbell, Martin Keown, Tony Adams, Phil Neville - when I looked through the team, everyone contributed and that was why it was such a good performance," added Keegan.

"If you had sat down and you wanted to make a film of how it would go, then this would have been it. We could have added a third, but I suppose that's being a bit too greedy.

"But it's not all over. They've got to score three goals at Wembley to beat us, which is very tough.

Scotland manager Craig Brown still believes his team can pull off a surprise at Wembley.

"England won't agree but I think if we can go to Wembley and get an early goal we are in the match.

"Sloppy defending cost us the two goals. We didn't really pick up Scholes in mid-field. His timing was excellent and his finish-

ing was excellent and his finish-
But he did not contribute a great deal apart from that. Still, I guess that is his job."

Brown added: "We gave away careless free-kicks. The referee was fairly harsh and we were not equally punished but again I am a bit biased."

"Simply, England took the chances, we didn't."

Scotland defender Colin Hendry said: "We worked tirelessly but we didn't get the rub of the green in the box. It just would not happen for us.

"It is an uphill task for us. I am very sorry for the fans.

"I have been one myself and I will be again when I finish playing.

"On the first goal Scholes had 'gone.' I got caught flat-footed. I think he did that against Poland. He is very good at doing it.

"It will have to be a ridiculously impressive performance by us at Wembley. We just did not get that little break and got punished by Paul Scholes.

"We will be trying twice as hard as we did today. It is difficult for us to swallow but we will be out there on Wednesday giving it our best shot."

Alan Shearer vowed his side will be going all out for victory in Wednesday's second leg.

A delighted Shearer said: "We couldn't have asked for any more.

"We're very pleased with our performance, particularly in the first-half when the damage was done. The second-half they pushed on, but that was expected.

"But we've done a helluva job in what was a tough atmosphere. But it's only half-time because we've done one job and now we've still got a second to do.

"And we will attack on Wednesday night. We are not made to go for a draw, although if we get one then we will settle for it. But we will certainly go out to win the game."

The Republic of Ireland drew 1-1 with Turkey in their Euro 2000 play-off first leg at Lansdowne Road.

Robbie Keane looked as if he had given the Republic an advantage to take to Bursa on Wednesday for the second leg with a dramatic 79th-minute strike.

But a penalty by Havutcu Tayfur just four minutes later earned the visitors a draw - and an away-goal advantage for the return.

Teenage Coventry striker Keane squeezed his shot past brilliant Turkish goalkeeper Regber Rustu from a pass by David Connolly - the substitute who had come on just four minutes earlier for veteran Tony Cascarino.

It looked like a happy ending even though Ireland had lost goalkeeper Alan Kelly with injury midway through the second half.

But Lee Carsley's handball gave the visitors a lifeline and they seized upon the chance with Tayfur slamming the spot-kick



Paul Scholes ... his two goals almost guarantees England a berth in Euro 2000.

past substitute goalkeeper Dean Kiely on the

To make matters worse, Robbie Keane was booked in the closing stages for dissent and will miss the second leg.

This gives Mick McCarthy a striker problem with Niall Quinn doubtful after pulling out of the game at the 11th hour with a neck injury.

McCarthy was not amused by Keane's booking, branded for gesticulating at Swedish referee Anders Frisk.

"I can't accept players doing that," said McCarthy. "Perhaps he's got to learn to control his emotions, especially with the referee."

"It could cost us dear, but we are relying heavily on a young player like Robbie and he will fail sometimes."

And Kelly's groin muscle strain leaves McCarthy with a mini-goalkeeping crisis.

"Alan will probably travel with us to Turkey," said McCarthy, "but I'm on red alert for another keeper and if we can get one maybe it's possible to bring him over later in the week."

Meanwhile Turkey coach Mustafa Denizli accused Irish fans of disturbing his team's sleep at their Portmarnock hotel with a noisy demonstration in the street.

It was not clear whether Denizli, who had been fuming earlier in the week about allegedly poor training facilities for his squad in Dublin, was serious in suggesting that as many as 15,000 fans were making a row outside the hotel.

But FAI chief executive Bernard O'Byrne said: "Whatever he means it is a load of nonsense."

"And what do they expect if they choose to stay in a hotel with a disco on a Friday night."

Denmark virtually assured themselves of a place the Euro 2000 finals after beating Israel 5-0 in their play-off first leg in Tel Aviv.

Former Newcastle striker Jon Dahl Tomasson set the visitors on their way with two goals, the first coming after just two minutes.

The Feyenoord hitman latched onto a fine pass from Ebbe Sand and coolly slotted past Dudu Avate.

His second came on 34 minutes and was a simple tap-in from close range after the Israelis failed to clear a cross from the right.

However it was after the interval that the game really came to life as the hosts had Haim Revivo sent off on 57 minutes.

The Celta Vigo midfielder was very late with his challenge on Martin Jorgensen and English referee David Elleray produced the red card.

Two more Danish goals inside a minute then settled the issue - and almost certainly the tie.

First Stig Tofing (67) and then Jorgensen (68) got on the score sheet to make it 4-0 to the visitors.

Tofing curled a fine free-kick around the

Tofing curled a fine free kick around the before Jorgensen found the net with a looping header from 15 yards.

There was still time for Brian Steen-Nielsen to add a fifth with a great 25-yard strike on 73 minutes which leaves the 1992 European Champions looking good to reach next summer's finals in Holland and Belgium.

Slovenia came from behind to shock nine-man Ukraine in Ljubljana and take a 2-1 lead into their second leg.

Just as the game looked destined for a draw Milenko Acimovic scored with a fantastic 40-yard lob on 83 minutes to give the Slovenians every chance of making the finals.

The hosts had looked determined to shake off their underdog tag in the Bežigrad Stadium.

After only five minutes Zlatko Zahovic produced a penetrating run which ended with the ball falling into the path of Miran Pavlin.

His low shot was on target, but Olexander Shovkovskiy got down well to turn it behind.

But with Dynamo Kiev's Sergei Rebrov partnering Andriy Shevchenko in attack, Ukraine always looked dangerous on the break.

And on 34 minutes, AC Milan star Shevchenko collected a clever backheel from Serguei Kandaurov and cut into the box before curling a wonderful effort past Mladen Dabanovic and into the top corner of the net.

Just after that goal Dabanovic did well to keep out a 25-yard effort from Shevchenko.

However there was a warning to the visitors just before the break when Olympiakos midfielder Zahovic sent his 20-yard drive just over.

It was more of the same at the start of the second period when Zahovic burst into the box and unleashed a fierce drive which Shovkovskiy blocked with a fine reaction save.

Zahovic was very unlucky as he lashed the rebound against the post, but got his just rewards a few minutes later to put Slovenia right back in the tie.

The hard-working midfielder latched onto a mistake by Vyaly Kossovskiy to slot the ball into the bottom corner from the edge of the box.

It then got worse for Ukraine when Dmitiri Parfionov received his marching orders on the hour for a second yellow card.

As the clock ran down it seemed as both sides were going to settle for a draw, but Shovkovskiy could only find Acimovic with his clearance.

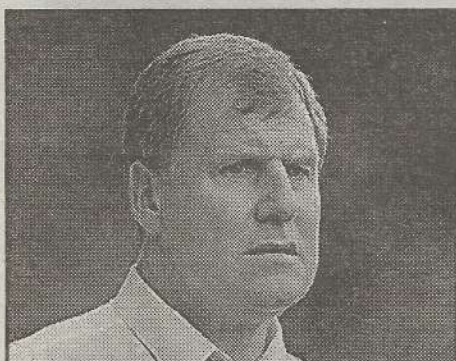
From just inside the Ukraine half the substitute sent a spectacular lob over the retreating keeper and into the net.

As the stadium erupted, Andriy Husin went in heavily on Acimovic and received his second yellow card as the visitors ended the game with nine men.



Jon Dahl Tomasson ... two goals for Denmark.

CHARLTON CLOSES IN ON CITY



Joe Royle ... coach of Division One leaders Manchester City.

Huddersfield put the squeeze on the top two in Nationwide One with a 3-1 win over Nottingham Forest at the City Ground.

A double from Clyde Wijnhard, one in either half, and a header from Kevin Gray swamped Forest substitute Alan Rogers' goal on the stroke of half time.

Wijnhard took advantage of a disastrous mix-up in the Forest defence to put Huddersfield two goals clear for the second time.

Steve Chettle gifted the ball to Wijnhard as keeper Mark Crossley charged way out of his goal leaving the Dutchman on his own to tap in from close range.

Rogers' goal had given his side hope on the stroke of half time.

Two down at the time Rogers raided down the left and shot low and accurately for the ball to squirm under Nico Vaesen in the Huddersfield goal.

Huddersfield had taken their lead after first half strikes from Wijnhard and Gray.

Forest's defending for the second epitomised a nervous start from the home team.

A free kick delivered for Gray to steal in unchecked and nod past the helpless Crossley.

But it was Wijnhard's exquisite 22nd minute finish that had put Huddersfield on the way.

Marcus Stewart crossed for the prolific striker to turn in space and place his right-footed drive out of the reach of the diving Crossley.

The Terriers started and finished the game in third place but now they are just two points off table-toppers Manchester City.

Bolton continued their march up the table with a 2-1 win over Sheffield United at Bramall Lane.

The visitors could not have asked for a better start to their match when after just two minutes on-loan Gareth Farrelly struck.

Half an hour later Marcus Bent equalised for the home side before parity was snatched away by Bo Hansen for Bolton in the 35th.

Defeat for the Blades leaves them struggling just above the relegation zone.

West Brom won at home for the first time this season beating Portsmouth 3-2 at the death.

Substitute striker Mickey Evans popped up to deliver the coup de grace to ten man Pompey who had earlier led 2-1.

Fitzroy Simpson came on as a second half substitute was booked twice in two minutes and trudged disconsolately off as the referee produced the inevitable red card.

It was Aussie Jason van Blerk who brought the Baggies level capitalising on unselfish play from Lee Hughes to fire home just before the hour mark.

Andy Awford had put injury hit Pompey in front on 29 minutes after Guy Whittingham drew them level nine minutes earlier.

Enzo Maresca gave the home side the lead after 14 minutes.

The win for West Brom sees them leapfrogging Pompey into 13th.

Crystal Palace beat QPR 3-0 in an incident packed match at Selhurst Park.

Palace's final goal came from a Hayden Mullins penalty after Rangers' second sending off in a bad tempered end to the game.

Mathias Svensson scored a controversial second goal for Palace in the 75th minute, Leon McKenzie supplied Svensson who had appeared offside to the obvious dismay of the home side.

And Rangers' displeasure bubbled over with eleven minutes to go resulting in Chris Kiwomya's dismissal for violent conduct.

Then Karl Ready's sending off for a professional foul on 89 minutes enabled Mullins to slam home the penalty to seal the game for the hosts.

Palace had had a dream start to the match when they went one up from a McKenzie goal in the first minute.

On Saturday, Barnsley maintained their bid for another taste of the Premiership high life with a superb 3-1 win at promotion rivals Fulham.

German international Karlheinz Riedle gave the home side a deserved lead on 24 minutes, shooting past Kevin Miller after being left in splendid isolation in the penalty area as the visitors looked in vain for an offside flag.

But an own goal from Kit Symons 10 minutes later, diverting the impressive Craig Hignett's low cross past goalkeeper Maik Taylor, gifted Barnsley an equaliser they never looked like creating themselves.

And two breakaway goals in six second-half minutes completed a miserable afternoon for Paul Bracewell's side, Bruce Dyer and

Robbie Van Der Laan securing all three points for the Tykes.

Charlton moved to within a point of First Division leaders Manchester City after crushing Grimsby 5-2 at Blundell Park on Friday night.

A rare double from Richard Rufus gave Charlton a 2-1 half-time lead. Rufus scored with headers either side of a Lee Ashcroft penalty, only for Kevin Donovan to restore parity a minute into the second half.

But then Charlton showed their class to pull away from the hosts, strikes from ex-Mariners star Clive Mendonca and Andy Hunt and an own goal from Paul Groves sealing an impressive win for the Addicks.

Ipswich suffered a disappointing goalless draw at home to Tranmere.

Defender Mark Venus missed a penalty for the second consecutive match as the home team dominated against Rovers at Portman Road.

Venus struck his shot over the bar in the 2-2 draw at Blackburn last Saturday. And in the 22nd minute, after David Johnson was fouled by Steve Yates, Venus' spotkick was saved well by goalkeeper Joe Murphy after the Rovers keeper dived to his right.

Richard Wright, available for Town after England's Under-21 play-off against Yugoslavia was called off, was rarely threatened in the home goal.

Swindon manager Jimmy Quinn, five days short of his 40th birthday, included himself in the squad to face Norwich.

But the presence of the veteran striker failed to inspire his side to break the stalemate in another goalless draw although a point against Bruce Rioch's in-form side was a useful result for the league's bottom club.

In the remaining game at Bescot Stadium, Walsall and Port Vale also failed to find the net

ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	GD
Man Utd	14	9	3	2	33	19	30	14
Leeds	14	9	2	3	26	18	29	8
Sunderland	14	8	4	2	24	12	28	12
Arsenal	14	8	2	4	21	14	26	7
Liverpool	14	7	3	4	18	12	24	6
Tottenham	13	7	2	4	23	18	23	5
Leicester	14	7	2	5	23	19	23	4
Middlesbrough	14	7	1	6	19	18	22	1
Chelsea	12	6	2	4	18	10	20	8
Everton	14	5	4	5	23	21	19	2
West Ham	13	5	3	5	12	11	18	1
Aston Villa	14	5	3	6	13	16	18	-3
Coventry	14	4	5	5	21	16	17	5
Southampton	13	4	4	5	20	23	16	-3
Wimbledon	14	3	7	4	21	27	16	-6
Newcastle	14	3	3	8	24	28	12	-4
Bradford	13	3	3	7	11	21	12	-10
Derby	14	3	3	8	13	24	12	-11
Watford	14	3	1	10	10	24	10	-14
Sheff Wed	14	1	3	10	10	32	6	-22

ENGLISH DIVISION ONE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	GD
Man City	17	11	3	3	26	11	36	15
Charlton	16	11	2	3	32	17	35	15
Huddersfield	17	9	4	4	33	19	31	14
Barnsley	17	10	1	6	33	26	31	7
Ipswich	17	8	4	5	31	22	28	9
Fulham	17	7	7	3	20	14	28	6
Birmingham	17	7	6	4	27	19	27	8
Stockport	17	7	6	4	22	23	27	-1
QPR	16	6	7	3	24	18	25	6
Wolverhampton	16	6	7	3	18	15	25	3
Norwich	17	6	6	5	16	15	24	1
Bolton	16	6	5	5	24	18	23	6
Tranmere	18	5	5	8	23	27	20	-4
Portsmouth	17	5	5	7	23	28	20	-5
Grimsby	17	5	4	8	17	28	19	-11
Nottm Forest	16	4	6	6	20	18	18	2
West Brom	15	3	9	3	13	14	18	-1
Blackburn	15	3	7	5	17	18	16	-1
Port Vale	18	4	4	10	19	26	16	-7
Sheff Utd	16	4	4	8	18	27	16	-9

Walsall	18	3	6	9	14	28	15	-14
Crystal Palace	16	3	5	8	20	30	14	-10
Swindon	18	3	5	10	12	29	14	-17
Crewe	16	3	4	9	15	27	13	-12

ENGLISH DIVISION TWO

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	GD
Wigan	16	9	7	0	32	14	34	18
Preston	17	9	6	2	26	17	33	9
Notts County	17	10	3	4	24	15	33	9
Brentford	16	8	6	2	27	17	30	10
Burnley	16	8	5	3	23	11	29	12
Gillingham	17	8	5	4	31	21	29	10
Bristol Rovers	16	8	5	3	18	11	29	7
Stoke	16	8	4	4	23	15	28	8
Luton	17	8	3	6	23	20	27	3
Millwall	16	6	6	4	21	19	24	2
Bury	17	5	8	4	26	21	23	5
Wycombe	17	5	7	5	22	22	22	0
Bournemouth	16	6	4	6	20	22	22	-2
Scunthorpe	17	5	4	8	18	26	19	-8
Oldham	16	5	3	8	18	21	18	-3
Wrexham	17	4	5	8	17	30	17	-13
Cardiff	17	3	7	7	18	24	16	-6
Oxford Utd	17	4	4	9	17	23	16	-6
Bristol City	15	3	6	6	15	20	15	-5
Reading	15	4	3	8	21	28	15	-7
Cambridge Utd	17	3	5	9	26	31	14	-5
Blackpool	16	2	6	8	17	30	12	-13
Chesterfield	16	2	5	9	11	19	11	-8
Colchester	15	2	5	8	17	34	11	-17

ENGLISH DIVISION THREE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	GD
Peterborough	17	10	3	4	25	17	33	8
Barnet	16	9	4	3	22	16	31	6
Rotherham	17	9	3	5	25	11	30	14
Torquay	17	9	3	5	21	17	30	4
Darlington	17	8	5	4	19	12	29	7
Halifax	17	8	3	6	21	18	27	3
Northampton	17	8	3	6	16	13	27	3
Southend	17	8	3	6	24	22	27	2
Macclesfield	16	8	2	6	24	20	26	4
Plymouth	16	7	5	4	20	17	26	3
Brighton	16	7	4	5	23	14	25	9
Hartlepool	17	8	1	8	22	17	25	5
Lincoln City	17	7	4	6	27	26	25	1

Swansea	16	7	3	6	17	14	24	3
Exeter	17	6	4	7	18	17	22	1
Rochdale	16	6	3	7	11	9	21	2
Hull	17	5	5	7	14	17	20	-3
York	17	5	5	7	17	24	20	-7
Mansfield	16	5	4	7	22	25	19	-3
Cheltenham	16	5	2	9	13	18	17	-5
Carlisle	17	3	6	8	17	29	15	-12
Leyton Orient	17	3	4	10	14	27	13	-13

SCOTTISH PREMIER LEAGUE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	GD
Rangers	11	10	1	0	34	10	31	24
Celtic	12	9	0	3	34	10	27	24
Dundee Utd	13	7	2	4	20	18	23	2
Hibernian	13	4	5	4	23	24	17	-1
Motherwell	12	4	5	3	19	20	17	-1
Hearts	11	4	4	3	18	15	16	3
Dundee	13	5	0	8	18	24	15	-6
St Johnstone	13	3	3	7	13	19	12	-6
Kilmarnock	13	2	4	7	12	20	10	-8
Aberdeen	13	1	2	10	13	44	5	-31

SCOTTISH DIVISION ONE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	GD
St Mirren	14	10	3	1	39	16	33	23
Dunfermline	14	6	7	1	25	14	25	11
Raith	14	7	4	3	27	21	25	6
Falkirk	14	7	3	4	24	20	24	4
Livingston	14	5	5	4	21	19	20	2
Inverness CT	14	4	4	6	18	23	16	-5
Airdrie	14	4	4	6	11	22	16	-11
Greenock Morton	14	4	3	7	24	27	15	-3
Ayr	14	4	2	8	15	22	14	-7
Clydebank	14	0	3	11	8	28	3	-20

SCOTTISH DIVISION TWO

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	GD
Arbroath	14	7	4	3	27	22	25	5
Clyde	14	6	4	4	18	10	22	8
Stenhousemuir	14	6	4	4	20	17	22	3
Alloa	14	5	7	2	17	15	22	2
Stranraer	14	4	7	3	15	12	19	3
Ross County	14	5	4	5	14	14	19	0
Stirling	14	5	3	6	29	26	18	3
Hamilton	14	4	5	5	14	17	17	-3
Partick	14	3	4	7	10	16	13	-6
Queen of South	14	2	4	8	17	32	10	-15

NATIONAL SOCCER LEAGUE - ROUND EIGHT

NORTHERN SPIRIT v FOOTBALL KINGZ

- 1 John Perosh
- 2 Robert Enes
- 3 Matthew Langdon
- 4 Matthew Bingley
- 5 Mark Rudan
- 6 Luke Casserley
- 7 Robbie Slater
- 8 Tony Perinich
- 9 David Seal
- 11 Troy Cranney
- 12 Simon Catanzaro
- 13 Philip Moss
- 14 Shane Lyons
- 15 Anthony Faria
- 17 Paul Bilokapic
- 18 Paul Weame
- 20 Jess Van Stratten
- 21 Michael Cunico
- 22 Paul Henderson
- 23 Adam Snyder
- 24 Elvis Olic
- 25 Ryan Griffiths
- 26 Jack Sobczyk
- 27 Adam Griffiths
- 28 Abbas Saad
- 29 Ian Crook
- 30 Sean Cranney



- 1 Michael Utting
- 2 Che Bunce
- 3 Riki Van Steeden
- 4 Fabio Macolino
- 5 Jonathon Perry
- 6 Marcus Stergiopoulos
- 7 Wynton Rufer
- 8 Chris Jackson
- 9 Fred de Jong
- 10 Dino Mennillo
- 11 Robbie Middleby
- 12 Harry Ngata
- 13 Levent Osman
- 14 Batrum Suri
- 15 Ivan Vichelich
- 16 Lee Jones
- 17 Maciel Edmilton
- 18 Stuart Riddle
- 19 Leigh Kenyon
- 20 Jason Batty
- 21 David Moya
- 22 Aaron Silva
- 23 Simon Eaddy



Venue: North Sydney Oval - Friday 19 November 7.30PM
 Head to Head: Played N/A
 Last Week: Spirit 1-0 away loss to Stallions
 Kingz 2-4 home loss to Wolves

NEWCASTLE BREAKERS v ADELAIDE FORCE

- 1 Bob Catlin
- 2 Shane Pryce
- 3 Andrew Roberts
- 4 Adam Sanderson
- 5 Todd McManus
- 6 Glenn Sprod
- 7 Travis Dodd
- 8 Mark Wilson
- 9 Chris Tancheski
- 10 John Buonavoglia
- 11 Luke Tomich
- 12 Robert Angievski
- 13 Brad Wieczorek
- 14 Greg Owens
- 15 Joshua Ferguson
- 16 Vasko Trpceviski
- 17 Paul Wheeler
- 18 Andrew Harper
- 19 Chad Mansley
- 20 Bradley Swancott
- 21 Peter Juchniewicz
- 22 Glen Moore
- 30 Jason Kos



- 1 Vilson Knezevic
- 2 Ivan Zelic
- 3
- 4
- 5 Alex Tobin
- 6 Carlo Talladira
- 7 Damian Mori
- 8 Carl Veart
- 9 Nick Sabljak
- 10 Aurelio Vidmar
- 11
- 12 Nathan Day
- 13 John Fusco
- 14 Michael Cartwright
- 15 Louis Brain
- 16 Matthew Kemp
- 17 Angelo Costanzo
- 18 Bradley Hassell
- 19
- 20 Vilson Knezevic
- 21 Dong Ki Kim
- 22
- 23 Jonathan Lihou



Venue: Breakers Stadium - Friday 19 November 7.30PM
 Head to Head: Played 15 Breakers wins: 2 Force 9 wins: Draws 4
 Last Week: Breakers 3-0 away loss to Knights
 Force 1-1 home draw with South Melbourne

PERTH GLORY v MELBOURNE KNIGHTS

- 1 Danny Milosevic
- 2 Robert Trajkovski
- 3 Jamie Harnwell
- 4
- 5 Vinko Buljbasic
- 6 Gareth Naven
- 7 Scott Miller
- 8 Troy Halpin
- 9 Alistair Edwards
- 10 Bobby Despotoski
- 11 Kasey Wehman
- 12 Peter Buljan
- 13 Jamos Afkos
- 14 Dion Valle
- 15 Edgar Junior
- 16 Con Boutsianis
- 17 Vas Kalogeracos
- 18 Hamilton Thorp
- 19 John Carbone
- 20 Tony Franken
- 21 Ivan Ergic



- 1 Joey Rayher
- 2 Ivan Jolic
- 3 Ante Kovacevic
- 4 Jason Vukadin
- 5 John Didulica
- 6 Mark Silic
- 7 Dragi Nastevski
- 8 Ivan Kelic
- 9 Paul Urlovic
- 10 Mijo Trupkovic
- 11 Murtala Toyin Abbas
- 12 Lance Plunkett
- 13 Paul Magdic
- 14 Ransford Banini
- 15 Alex Kriatzoglou
- 16 Brandon Vassalo
- 17 Roddy Vargas
- 18 Adrian Cervinski
- 19 Martin John
- 20 Zeljko Susa
- 21 Steven Tillinger
- 22 Michael Reda
- 23 Hrvoje Matkovic
- 24



Venue: Perth Oval - Saturday 21 November 1999 4.00PM
 Head to Head: Played 7 Glory 5 Knights wins: 1 Draws 1
 Last Week: Glory 1-3 away loss to Power
 Knights 3-0 home win over Breakers

SYDNEY OLYMPIC v MARCONI STALLIONS

- 1 Jim Kourtis
- 2 Scott Thomas
- 3 Chris Zoricich
- 4 Peter Tsekenis
- 5 Scott Baillie
- 6 Ante Juric
- 7 Zlatko Arambasic
- 8 Marcus Phillips
- 9 Pablo Cardozo
- 10 Brett Emerton
- 11 Chris Kalantzis
- 12 Sebastian Sinozic
- 13
- 14 Gabriel Mendez
- 15 Lindsay Wilson
- 16
- 17 Paul Kohler
- 18 John Kyriazopoulos
- 19 Nick Carle
- 20 George Bouhoutsos
- 21 Lee Miot
- 22 Pete Zorbas



- 1 Michael Turnbull
- 2 Chad Gibson
- 3 Mark Babic
- 4
- 5 Dominic Longo
- 6 Pan-Keum Kim
- 7 Christian Care
- 8 Darren McDonald
- 9 Zeljko Babic
- 10 Brad Maloney
- 11 Mike Smith
- 12
- 13 Danny Invincible
- 14 Buddy Farah
- 15 Pierluigi di Gia
- 17 Francis Awaritefe
- 18 Harry Karl
- 19 Brendan Ranaud
- 20 David Aceski
- 21 Paolo Marchesini
- 22 Kris Trajanovski
- 23 Vlado Zoric
- 24 Josaia Junior Sauturaga
- 25
- 26 Daniel Severino



Venue: Belmore Sports Ground - Sunday 21 November 1999 6.30PM
 Head to Head: Played 38 Olympic wins: 13 Marconi wins: 13 Draws 12
 Last Week: Olympic 0-1 away win over Falcons
 Marconi 1-0 home win over Spirit

SOUTH MELBOURNE v CANBERRA COSMOS

- 1 Milan Udvaracz
- 2 Steve Iosifidis
- 3 Fausto de Amicis
- 4 Nick Orlie
- 5 Con Blatsis
- 6 David Clarkson
- 7 Steve Panopoulos
- 8 Vaughan Coveny
- 9 Paul Trimboli
- 10 Michael Curcija
- 11 John Anastasiadis
- 12 Richie Alagich
- 13 Adrian Cuzzupe
- 14 Anthony Magnacca
- 15 Goran Lozanovski
- 16 George Goutzoulis
- 17 Jim Tsekinis
- 18 Robert Liparoti
- 19 Tasos Psonis
- 20 Chris Jones
- 21
- 22 Mustafa Mustafa



- 1 David Milin
- 2 Toplica Popovich
- 3 Danny Burt
- 4 Nicholas Purdue
- 5 Jason Polak
- 6 David Winnie
- 7 Daniel Watkins
- 8 Alex Castro
- 9 Michael Musitano
- 10 David Arranz
- 11 Brian Hamilton
- 12 Harry James
- 13 Glen Kolpak
- 14 Ilija Prenzovski
- 15 Robbie Hooker
- 16 Nikola Mrdja
- 17 Geoff Howarth
- 18 Grant Barlow
- 19 Scott Conlon
- 20 Elliot Zwangobani
- 21 Ivo De Jesus
- 22 Gabriel Gonzalez
- 23 Angelo Konstantinou
- 24
- 25
- 26
- 27
- 28
- 29
- 30



Venue: Bob Jane Stadium - Sunday 21 November 6.00PM
 Head to Head: Played 9 South Melbourne wins: 4 Canberra wins: 2 Draws 3
 Last Week: South Melbourne 1-1 away draw with Force

WOLLONGONG WOLVES v GIPPSLAND FALCONS

- 1 Leslie Pogliacomi
- 2 George Souris
- 3 Alvin Ceccoli
- 4 Robert Stanton
- 5 David Cervinski
- 6 Matthew Horsley
- 7 Paul Reid
- 8 Anthony Surjan
- 9 Sasho Dimoski
- 10 Stuart Young
- 11 Scott Chipperfield
- 12 Neil Harlock
- 13 Noel Spencer
- 14 Saso Petrovski
- 15 David Huxley
- 16 Peter Lahanas
- 17 Esala Masi
- 18 Chad Bishop
- 19 Paul Dimech
- 20 Daniel Bertrame
- 21 Christian Zelvis



- 1 Bojo Jevdjovic
- 2 Dean Fak
- 3 Manny Gotis
- 4 Mehmed Durakovic
- 5 Jeff Hopkins
- 6 Brian MacNichol
- 7 Andy Vargas
- 8 Clayton Bell
- 9 Robbie Puca
- 10 Sandy Robertson
- 11 John Hutchinson
- 12 Peter Kakos
- 13 Adrian Savage
- 14 Doug Marcina
- 15 Jonathon Buhugiar
- 16 Juan Nilo
- 17 Will Hastie
- 18 Michael Katz
- 19
- 20 Simon Miotto



Venue: Brandon Park - Sunday 21 November 5.00PM
 Head to Head: Played 15 Wolves wins: 6 United wins: 6 Draws 3
 Last Week: Wolves 2-4 away win over Kingz
 Falcons 0-1 home loss to Olympic

FRIDAY 19 NOVEMBER 7.30 PM
OPTUS C7 CHANNEL 12

**CARLTON v
 PARRAMATTA POWER**



- 1 Andrew Crews
- 2 David Barrett
- 3 Michael Santalab
- 4 Steve Eagleton
- 5 Richard Plesa
- 6 Joe Vrkic
- 7 Jacob Burns
- 8 Walter Ardone
- 9 Mile Sterjovski
- 10 Joel Griffiths
- 11 Steve Berry
- 12 Stephen Laybutt
- 13 Milan Blagojevic
- 14 John Angelucci
- 15 Danny Townsend
- 16 Mark Byrnes
- 17 Danny Kukucka
- 18 Lachlan Campbell
- 19 Matt Thompson
- 20 Barney Smith
- 21 Ahmid Elrich
- 23 John Gibson
- 28 Peter Bennett
- 30 Mike Gibson



- 1 Dean Anastasiadis
- 2 Dave McPherson
- 3 Craig Deans
- 4 Simon Colosimo
- 5 Sean Douglas
- 6 Andrew Marth (above)
- 7 Stuart Slater
- 8 Mark Atkinson
- 9 Alex Moreira
- 10 Lubo Lapsansky
- 11 Archie Thompson
- 12 Mike Conroy
- 13 Steve Martin
- 14 John Markovski
- 15 Con Anthopoulos
- 16 David Terminello
- 17 Joe Tricarico
- 18 David Della Rocca
- 19 Serdar Pir
- 20 Adrian Cagalj
- 21 Andrew Packer
- 22 Angelo Motsiopoulos
- 23 Colin Azzopardi
- 24 Joshua Kennedy

Venue: Olympic Park
Friday 19 November 7.30PM

Head-to-Head: N/A

Carlton:

Power:

Draws:

Last Week:

Carlton: 1-1 away draw with Strikers

Power: 3-1 home win over Glory

SUNDAY 21 NOVEMBER 7.30 PM
OPTUS C7 CHANNEL 13

**SYDNEY UNITED v
 BRISBANE STRIKERS**



- 1 Clint Bolton
- 2 Glenn Gwynne
- 3 Shane Stefanutto
- 4 Andrew Davidson
- 5 Matthew Belli
- 6 Brad Ditton
- 7 Shane Smeltz
- 8 David Pilic
- 9 Paul Foster
- 10 Wayne Srhoj
- 11 Greg Di Losa
- 12 Peter Dwyer
- 13 Stuart McClaren
- 14 Jade North
- 15 Leo Langone
- 16 Peter Grierson
- 17 Jeremy Harris
- 18 Nick Meredith
- 19 Wade Baldwin
- 20 Daniel Duke



- 1 John Crawley
- 2 Ray Younis
- 3 Mark Racker
- 4 Velimir Kupresak
- 5 Eddie Bosnar
- 6 Vince Savocca
- 7 Mirko Jurilj
- 8 Nahuel Arrarte
- 9 Mario Jermen
- 10 Ante Moric
- 11 Tom Pondeljak (above)
- 12 Tom Maric
- 13 Matthew Zec
- 14 Kain Rastall
- 15 Aytec Genc
- 16 Joe Moric
- 17 Nick Bosevski
- 18 Steve Bozinovski
- 19 Greg Saric
- 20 Steve Tolios
- 25 Ante Deak
- 30 Brett Hughes

Venue: Sydney United Sports Centre
Sunday 21 November 5.00PM

Head to Head: 22

Sydney United wins: 15

Brisbane Strikers wins: 4

Draws: 3

Last Week:

Strikers: 1-1 home draw with Carlton

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This weekend's telecasts
Carlton v Parramatta Power Friday night.
Sydney United v Brisbane Strikers Sunday night